

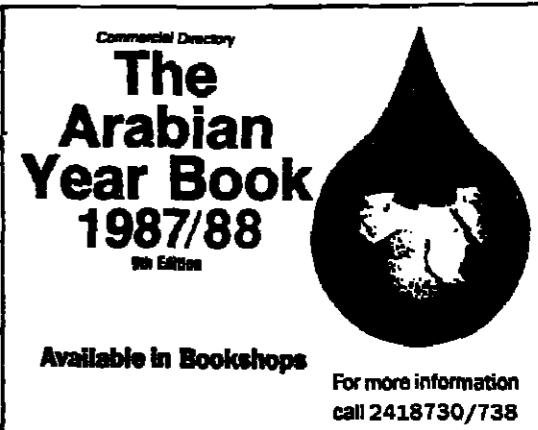


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Pakistan mediating between Saudi Arabia and Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iran hopes for early restoration of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia through Pakistani mediation, a leading parliamentarian said today.

Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran last April, accusing Tehran of harboring following riots in Makkah during the annual Muslim haj pilgrimage in July 1987.

In an interview with the Iranian news agency IRNA, Saeed Khalikhal, head of Iran's parliamentary foreign relations committee, praised Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan for efforts to resolve the row between Tehran and Riyadh.

He said he hoped the initiative would succeed and Iran and Saudi Arabia would issue a joint statement.

Indirect

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said last week Tehran was holding indirect talks with Riyadh.

One of the main points of contention between Iran and Saudi Arabia is the Saudi policy of limiting the number of pilgrims attending haj.

The policy was first introduced last year and Saudi Arabia said on Feb 1 it would continue for several years until renovations at holy Muslim sites were completed.

Iran objected to its quota of 45,000 last year, saying it wanted to send 150,000, and boycotted the haj.

Khalikhal said he hoped 150,000 Iranians could make the pilgrimage this year, IRNA reported.

Since the ceasefire in the Gulf war last August, both Iran and Saudi Arabia have said they want to normalize relations.

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آن کاروں صفات میں
○ کابل سے سوت فضا
○ کاغذ مکمل ہو گیا
○ کابل میں طویل خاصہ سے
○ ششکی تیاریاں
○ مک بھارت کشیگی نہیں
○ بھی بے نظر
○ ایران اور سعودی عرب
میں صاخت کی پاکستانی
کوشش
○ ششکے عراقی رہنماؤں
سناکرات
○ قاطعہ رہنمائی کو قتل
کرنے کا سرخی مٹوبہ
○ ادیات

WEATHER

NORMAL weather with light variable wind changes to light easterly and some clouds will appear.
State of fair sight.
High water: 2.00 pm
Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.34 am
Sunset: 5.31 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Ahmad: 16°C 61°F
Faiaka: 16°C 61°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 17°C 60°F
Ahmad: 5°C 45°F
Faiaka: 9°C 48°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F
Faiaka: 17°C 63°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 35 per cent
Ahmad: 60 per cent
Faiaka: 60 per cent

Sheikh Nawaf to visit Qatar

Kuwait buys British training helicopters

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (Agencies):

Kuwait today signed a contract with the British firm Short Brothers to buy 16 training helicopters for its Air Force, aviation sources said. They declined to give the value of the deal.

A Defence Ministry statement only said a contract was signed with the firm but did not specify the number of helicopters involved.

Offered

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed signed for Kuwait. The signing ceremony was attended by Army's Chief of Staff Major General Mazyed Al Sanea and the British Ambas-

sador to Kuwait, Peter Hinchcliffe.

Three years ago, Britain and Kuwait signed a similar contract which provided the Kuwait Air Force with a number of Hawk training jets.

Britain reportedly was trying to convince Kuwait to buy F-16 fighter jets, while France offered Mirage 2000.

The Shorts Tucano, based on a Brazilian design, entered service with the British Royal Air Force last September. Kuwait is the second Tucano export customer for the Northern Ireland-based firm owned by the British govern-

ment.

The plane is powered by a single turboprop, a jet engine that

drives a propeller, and seats a student and an instructor.

Kuwait, threatened by a spillover of the Iran-Iraq war on its borders, last year launched a \$5.5 billion, 10-year arms buying spree designed to modernize its defences.

Sheikh Nawaf has said the purchase of arms would continue despite the Gulf war ceasefire last August. But diplomats said Kuwait was now proceeding with less urgency.

Kuwait's major arms supplier is the United States. The two countries signed a \$1.9 billion deal in July under which Kuwait would get 40 F-16 fighter jets.

Before that deal, France's Mirage F-1 and Gazelle helicop-

terships, and Britain's Hawk trainer and Chieftain tanks were the backbone of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

Kuwait's basic anti-aircraft defences comprise US-made Hawk missiles and Soviet shoulder-fired SAM-7 projectiles.

Visit

Keen to diversify arms sources, it also purchased Soviet armoured cars and an Egyptian defence system.

Meanwhile, it was announced here today that Sheikh Nawaf will pay a three-day visit to Qatar starting Sunday.

He will be accompanied by senior Defence Ministry officials.

Mujahedeen reach agreement on shura seats

Soviet troops emerge from 'hell'

MOSCOW, Feb 7, (Agencies):

As the last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, emerging from "hell" according to Moscow Radio, mujahedeen based in Iran and Pakistan reached an agreement on allocation of seats for their proposed consultative council (shura), reports said.

A huge convoy of armoured personnel carriers and tanks draped in red banners received a hero's welcome in the Soviet border town of Termez yesterday after a hazardous, three-day journey along the mountainous Salang highway from Kabul.

Television last night showed a returning column of Soviet soldiers crossing the border following a "difficult march" home and a Moscow Radio correspondent spoke of troops coming back from "hell."

Stop

The commander-in-chief of Soviet forces in Afghanistan will be the last Soviet soldier to leave, crossing into the Soviet Union on Feb 15 at 10 am (0500 GMT), Komsomolskaya Pravda reported today.

"On Feb 15 at 10 o'clock local time Lieutenant-General Boris Gromov will be the last to cross the bridge (from Hayratan to Termez)," the Soviet newspaper said in a report from Termez.

"We searched the plane for almost two hours and found nothing ... it's now being refuelled and is getting ready for take-off again," said the spokesman, who asked for anonymity.

Shipment

Meanwhile, in an effort to ease shortages in Afghanistan, 32 tons of medicine, food such as flour, wheat and vegetable oil, and other supplies have been loaded on a Boeing 707 in Islamabad, Pakistan, said Steffan de Mistura of the UN office for humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan.

De Mistura, however, declined to say when the airlift would begin. He said another 358 tons of supplies have been set aside for later shipment.

In New York, a UN official

said convoys of trucks loaded with relief supplies were parked in Iran and Pakistan, waiting to move into Afghanistan as soon as the Soviet Union completes its withdrawal.

The last Soviet warplane based at Kabul airport flew home yesterday. Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad said today.

Other air units based at Baghram, north of the Afghan capital, completed their withdrawal on Feb 1 and it appeared the last plane based at Shindand, south of the western Afghan city of Herat, had also left, the sources said.

Long lines form daily outside the buildings where bread is distributed. Each piece costs about six afghani (the equivalent of 10 US cents).

Alliance

A rebel leader promised a blockade of the capital but in Moscow, a senior government official said the Soviet Union would continue to airlift relief supplies to Kabul after its troops complete their planned withdrawal next week.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said Sebhaghullah Mojaddidi, leader of the alliance of mujahedeen based in Pakistan, "returned to Islamabad yesterday after concluding a deal with Iran-based mujahedeen on the formation of a shura to decide on an interim Afghan government."

(Continued on Page 2)



A caravan of camels loaded with grain enters Kabul along the Jalalabad road. (Reuters wirephoto)

Benazir plays down tensions with India

Gandhi that it had developed the missiles to carry nuclear weapons.

Rajiv warned Pakistan on Friday that India would take steps to protect itself if reports of a missile test were true.

Defueling

Benazir said: "I think the basic motivating force for improving relations and reducing tensions is there on both sides of the border."

"I expect these hiccups will continue for a while but would not necessarily interrupt the momentum towards defusing tensions."

Benazir and Rajiv met during a South Asian summit meeting in Islamabad last December, raising hopes of improved ties between the two neighbours that have fought three wars since independence in 1947.

But political analysts say the threat of a new arms race could revive the old tensions.

Benazir recalled the history of recent tension between Pakistan and India, culminating in the 1987 massing of troops along the joint border.

The move was opposed by Benazir's right-wing critics, who want Islamabad to resist what they see as an Indian bid to dominate smaller neighbours.

reducing (India-Pakistan) tension comes after a long period of heightened tension which nearly led to a conflict in 1987," Benazir said.

Start

"But the important point that I want to emphasize is that a good start was made," she said about what political analysts say.

Benazir recalled the history of recent tension between Pakistan and India, culminating in the 1987 massing of troops along the joint border.

The move was opposed by Benazir's right-wing critics, who want Islamabad to resist what they see as an Indian bid to dominate smaller neighbours.

AMMAN, Feb 7, (Reuters): Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qassem said today the Arabs and Palestinians had demonstrated their readiness for peace and urged Israel to do the same.

"The Arab side has finally come to a coherent position regarding the requirements for peace," Qassem said in an interview. "For a long time people could hide behind Arab negativism, but this time the other side (Israel) is exposed."

He said Jordan's disengagement from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the PLO's acceptance of US conditions for a US-PLO dialogue had cleared the way for an international peace conference under UN auspices.

The PLO has clearly accepted a political settlement based on (UN Security Council

(Continued on Page 2)

US accuses Israel of human rights violations

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The United States, in its 1988 human rights report, accused Israel today of a "substantial increase in human rights violations," mostly involving the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The report, covering 169 countries and prepared by the State Department, is the most detailed analysis of the 14-month-old uprising, or intifada, which has raised serious concerns among American Jews, as well as US officials.

In dispassionate language, the report describes a pattern of Israeli behaviour in the West Bank and Gaza in which Arab freedoms and protections are severely limited and often abused.

The uprising, involving young people "motivated by Palestinian nationalism and a desire to bring the (Israeli) occupation to an end," caught Israeli authorities off guard, the report said.

Surprise

"The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), caught by surprise and untrained and inexperienced in riot control, responded in a manner which led to a substantial increase in human rights violations," it said.

Israel today rejected the US criticism.

The Israeli Army's chief lawyer, Judge Advocate-General

Negotiations between the two sides stalled soon after they began five days after the August ceasefire in their eight-year war.

Meanwhile, INA quoted Sheikh Saad as saying that his visit to Iraq is aimed at boosting co-operation in all fields with the brothers in Iraq. He said Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations were based on love, fraternity and understanding which will provide the countries in the region and the Arab nation with more steadfastness to confront its enemies.

Great

Ibrahim described his talks with Sheikh Saad as "great" and added that views of both countries were identical on the Arab and bilateral issues.

Ibrahim said that issues discussed on the bilateral level were comprehensive in which "fields of economic, commercial, scientific and military co-operation were considered."

Iraq today is backing for the six-man Arab League committee assigned to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Kuwait's acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, is the chairman of the committee.

JNA quoted Ibrahim as requesting Iraq's stand on the necessity of finding a permanent solution to the Lebanese problem, asserting Iraq's support for the committee's efforts in this regard.

US accuses Israel of human rights violations

AMMON STRASHNOW, said the report, did not account for the security threats facing Israeli soldiers in the territories.

"We have to a large extent succeeded to keep the delicate balance between the necessity of security on the one hand and the rights of individuals on the other hand," he told Israel Radio.

He noted Palestinians had the right to appeal charges and expulsion orders to the Supreme Court, and that 8,000 Palestinians arrested have been indicted.

Some 4,500 Palestinians have been detained without trial since the start of the uprising, said Strashnow.

Victims

Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin says 360 Palestinians have been killed, more than 7,000 wounded and a total of 22,000 arrested during the uprising in occupied territories, the Itim news agency reported.

Rabin said 30 victims were killed by other Arabs. "They killed more Palestinians than Israelis," Itim quoted him as saying.

Palestinians killed by other Arabs during the revolt have been suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

Figures compiled by Reuters for the 14-month-old revolt put the Arab death toll at 383 and the Jewish toll at 14.

Under a timetable agreed by Shiite rivals

Hezbollah set to quit south Lebanon villages

BEIRUT, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iranian-backed fighters are to pull out of villages in south Lebanon on Thursday under a timetable agreed after weeks of bitter fighting with pro-Syrian rivals, Shiite sources said today.

The fighters from Hezbollah will leave Jubah and Ain Buswar and pull back to the villages of Lowaizeh and Jabal Sifi in south Lebanon.

The same day, their opponents from the Syrian-backed Amal militia will lift sieges of Hezbollah positions, the sources said.

Signed

At least 142 people were killed in the latest fighting which raged from Jan 1 to Jan 25 and was part of a year-long struggle for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites.

More than 700 people have died in the fighting since last April.

The Shiite sources said a com-

mittee grouping Hezbollah, Amal and Syrian officials had set the timetable for the disengagement under a Syrian-Iranian brokered peace accord signed last week in Damascus.

All roads in the area will be reopened on Thursday and on Friday both sides will free all prisoners.

Amal sources said Hezbollah holds at least 18 of their fighters while Hezbollah says at least 500 of its people are detained by the Muslim West.

Under the accord, all displaced villagers of Iqlim Al Tufah — the region including the contested villages — who fled for safety will return to their homes, they added.

Iran and Syria, who brought the two rivals together, have guaranteed to see that the deal to end the hostilities in Beirut's southern suburbs and Iqlim Al Tufah is upheld.

Syria, the main foreign power

broker in Lebanon, has at least 25,000 troops in two-thirds of the country.

One Shiite source indicated that Syrian troops would be in charge of security in Beirut's southern suburbs and that the military offices there of Hezbollah and Amal would close from Monday.

He said any militia presence would be banned except on the Green Line which separates Christian East Beirut from the Muslim West.

Lebanese Red Cross teams evacuated nine wounded members of Hezbollah and the body of a tenth from the devastated village of Jubah last Thursday in the first step of implementing the Damascus accord.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday it would resume work soon in Lebanon after a seven-week suspension caused by death threats against its staff.

UN chief sees positive turn in US-Soviet relations

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 7, (Reuters): A more positive turn in relations between Washington and Moscow has produced an unprecedented trend towards disarmament, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today.

In a message to the new session of the Geneva conference on disarmament, he said "vast and diverse forces in international life" were at work.

"Relations between the two militarily most powerful states have taken a more positive turn," he said in remarks released here.

"Exchanges on a number of disarmament issues, ranging from the bilateral talks on nuclear and space issues held in Geneva, to the recent agreement in Vienna to begin negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe, furnish signs of a constructive trend not seen before."

The new year began with an auspicious development in the Paris declaration against the use of chemical weapons, Perez de Cuellar said in urging the conference to accelerate negotiations on that question.

"As the international situation improves, so must the conference as the single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament meet the challenges before it" the secretary-general said.

"We are witnessing the beginnings of an historic and formative change in international relations."

"Confrontation is giving way to dialogue in many spheres. The provisions of the first-ever disarmament agreement, the INF treaty, are being implemented under verification arrangements which did not seem achievable only a few years ago," Perez de Cuellar said.

The secretary-general said UN involvement in the search for solutions to various regional conflicts was an essential element in the movement towards peace, justice and stability.

Farmers struggle to save citrus crops

Cold weather grips much of US

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): Southwestern farmers struggled to save their citrus crops today and Idaho ranchers searched for livestock smothered in seemingly bottomless snow drifts as a deadly Arctic air mass shattered more weather records across the United States.

Ice covered vast parts of the southeast and Texas, causing power outages, filling hotels and causing hundreds of auto accidents on glassy roads. New Orleans went ahead with its soggy Mardi Gras, but other Louisiana towns decided that this fat Tuesday would be spent indoors.

At least 61 deaths have been blamed on the weather since Jan 31, when frigid air broke out of Alaska.

Searched

With the cold front stopped in its tracks, no immediate relief is expected. The cold continued to plague virtually the entire nation, but especially the western third.

In Idaho, Gov. Cecil Andrus declared a state of emergency

yesterday in rural Clark county, and the National Guard was expected to help ranchers today as they searched drifts as deep as 15 feet (4.6 metres) for buried cattle and sheep.

County commissioner A.B. Laird said he lost more than 600 sheep, 700 cows and dozens of heifers and bulls on his property near Dubois in eastern Idaho.

"They were all young cows, all pregnant, all ready to calve," Laird said.

Growers brought out smudge pots and turned on giant fans to keep crop-damaging frost from settling. In California's San Joaquin valley, one grower reported temperatures dipping to 19 degrees (minus 7.2 Celsius) yesterday.

Today's low at 0700 GMT was minus 37 degrees (minus 38.3 Celsius) in Craig, Colorado.

The lowest temperature reported yesterday was Logan Canyon, Utah's 54 below zero (minus 48 Celsius). More than 40 record lows were set yesterday. San Francisco had its coldest February day ever; its low of 31 (minus 0.5 Celsius) shattered a 102-year-old record. Ely, Nevada, recorded its lowest temperature ever — minus 30 (minus 34 Celsius).

Chicago's low of minus four (minus 20 Celsius) marked the first subzero readings of the year there, and helped fill homeless shelters.

Damage

In California, Texas and Arizona, citrus farmers fretted as temperatures dropped below freezing in usually temperate growing areas.

"If the weather forecast is correct, we're looking at a high probability of serious damage."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brain surgery

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (Reuters): A new surgical technique used to treat Parkinson's disease has failed to produce the dramatic cure doctors had hoped for, according to the first multi-centre study of the technique by a group of US physicians.

Pay raise

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The US Congress, but faced by public criticism of a pending pay raise for its members, will reconsider the issue before today midnight. House would automatically increase their salaries by 50 per cent.

Velayati to meet Howe

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was delayed in London by bad weather today and will take the opportunity to meet his British counterpart Geoffrey Howe, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Shark caught

TUNIS, Feb 7, (Reuters): A 22-ft (6.65-metre) Thresher shark has been caught in the Mediterranean off the Tunisian coast where the species has not been seen for 13 years.

Paczki Day

DETROIT, Feb 7, (Reuters): For thousands of Detroiters, Shrove Tuesday is better known as "Paczki Day."

Corruption besets Iran: Montazeri

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iran's revolution has failed to live up to the promises it made 10 years ago and is beset by corruption and disunity, a senior cleric said in remarks published yesterday.

Iran's designated future leader, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, said selfishness, intolerance, factional interests and lack of professionalism had hurt the Islamic revolution launched in 1979.

"Of course the brave and young revolutionary generation are justified in seeing that there is a big gap between what they have gained and what they were promised," he said.

"If one sees impunity, dishonesty or incompetence he should not be disappointed," said Montazeri, quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA.

Harsheiat

His criticism, among the harshest from within the Iranian leadership, coincides with celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

"We must not rule at any cost," said Montazeri, adding that state power was just a means to realise justice, equality and other human values.

Arabs ready for peace

(Continued from Page 1)

"Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of all in the region to exist in peace and security," he said.

"Is the other side ready to accept 242 and 338 which provided for the return of the territories occupied in 1967 in return for a genuine and comprehensive peace?"

Persuade

Qassem said Israel had failed to persuade the world that the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza was a form of terrorism.

He said there was a danger that Israel would try to derail the US-PLO dialogue by blaming PLO leader Yasser Arafat for actions by groups he might not fully control.

"The important thing is for the US administration to look in depth at the PLO's on-record interest in the peace process within the requirements of peace in the region," he said.

He ruled out any possibility of a separate peace between Jordan and Israel.

Soviet troops emerge ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Quoting the AAP, or Afghan Mujahideen Press Agency, IRNA said Iran-based Shiite Muslim groups accepted 80 seats in the shura. The total number of seats in the shura has now reached 539, it said, and each of the seven Afghan alliance groups based in Pakistan will be assigned 60 seats. Eighty seats will go to Iran-based groups and 49 seats will remain independent.

President Najibullah's government, determined to retain power, has handed out guns to 30,000 members of his ruling party in Kabul, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Kabul today.

Bush stands by Tower

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): President George Bush is standing by John Tower, his embattled nominee to be secretary of defence, and says the former Texas senator shouldn't have to withdraw because of rumours about his personal life.

The confirmation process "is taking a little longer than I would like, and yet I think the Senate has got to do what they're doing — looking at these allegations very carefully," Bush said yesterday.

Bush added that if any rumours or innuendo turn out to be "a substantive allegation of this nature, of course it would concern me."

He said he still endorses Tower, but added, "if somebody comes up with facts, I hope I'm

not narrow-minded enough that I wouldn't take a look. But I am not going to deal in the kinds of rumours that I've seen reported and then knocked down and then reported and then knocked down."

Tower was subject of allegations that he is a womanizer and has a drinking problem.

The administration said FBI investigations of the matter had turned up nothing that would prevent Tower from carrying out his task as head of the department.

But the Senate Armed Services Committee, which interviews prospective defence secretaries, last week put off a Thursday vote on Tower's confirmation, saying two new allegations came up that had to be checked out.

The secretary-general said UN

involvement in the search for solutions to various regional conflicts was an essential element in the movement towards peace, justice and stability.

Death toll

JAKARTA, Feb 7, (AP): The death toll has risen to 26 in the crash of a truck packed with 64 people, the newspaper Suara Pembaruan reported today.

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SPECIAL SWEETHEART STEAK DINNER FOR TWO AT SEASIDE AND SALMIYA RESTAURANT

Working groups will debate reforms and conditions for re-legalization of Solidarity

WARSAW, Feb 7, (UPI): The government and opposition groups agreed in the first session of historic round-table talks to set up three working groups to

debate economic and political reforms and conditions for the re-legalization of the banned Solidarity trade union.

The talks yesterday marked the first formal negotiations between Solidarity and the government in eight years and were hailed by both sides as a major first step toward solving Poland's numerous problems.

Participants announced the establishment of the working groups after three hours of opening speeches by some of the 57 delegates.

to the palace of the council of ministers, or Polish cabinet, to the cheers of 4,000 supporters who chanted "Solidarity" and Lech, done, give in.

"I have hope," Walesa said simply as he entered the building

for the first formal talks between the state and Solidarity since imposition of martial law in 1981.

A live broadcast by Polish television showed the 57

representatives of the government, Communist Party, official trade unions, the Roman Catholic church, Solidarity and other opposition groups filing into a

banquet room and taking their places around the circular table.

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INTERNATIONAL

IN Kumbh Mela ends without any mishaps

ALLAHABAD, Feb 7. (AP): Millions of barefoot Hindus from across India jostled and pushed their way to a dip at the confluence of two sacred rivers in the belief the bath would bring them eternal salvation.

An estimated 15 million bathed at river banks in the central Indian city of Allahabad during the day.

Yesterday's bathing was the high-point of the seven-week Kumbh Mela festival, which according to the Guinness Book of World Records is the largest religious gathering on earth.

The grand show was a grand success, said Ravindra Gupta, the chief administrator of Allahabad, where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers converge. "It was a difficult day for us but it's over."

The official's relief came from the fact that the fair—a logistical nightmare at the best of times—had crossed its climax without any major untoward incidents.

Stampedes and armed confrontations between different Hindu sects have claimed hundreds of lives in previous fairs. In 1954, at least 800 people died in a stampede.

Police said at least four people died during the bathing yesterday.



A Hindu devotee offers prayers on the occasion of the Kumbh Mela festival. (Reuter wirephoto)

Latest casualty in stock scandal

Japan's opposition leader quits

TOKYO, Feb 7. (AP): Japan's stock-profitting scandal claimed another casualty today when the head of an opposition party resigned because he made money on the sale of stock in the company at the centre of the controversy.

Saburo Tsukamoto, 61, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, stepped down amid pressure from within the party where some officials want to distance themselves from the influence-peddling scandal.

Tsukamoto said he was innocent of any wrongdoing, but was quitting for the good of the party.

"I believe my innocence was widely understood by my supporters, but I also could not overlook the fact that some of my colleagues are concerned about the next election," he said, referring to voting in July for half the

seats in the house of councillors, the upper house of parliament.

Tsukamoto bought 10,000 unlisted shares in Recruit-Cosmos Co., a real estate subsidiary of the information-based conglomerate Recruit Co., through his secretary. He earned about 10 million yen (\$77,000) by selling the stock immediately after the company went public in 1986.

Recruit is the company at the centre of the alleged stock-profitting by Japanese public officials.

Reaction

Reaction to Tsukamoto's resignation varied. The ruling party expressed regret and leftist opposition parties called for the resignations of ruling party leaders tainted by the scandal.

Shintaro Abe, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said it was

"unfortunate" that the Democratic Socialist leader was stepping down since Tsukamoto was devoted to his party. But he added he did not expect any negative political consequences to arise as a result.

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the largest opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party, welcomed the resignation and called on legislators to begin questioning the responsibility of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and other ruling party officials implicated.

Tsukamoto will remain chairman until his party's convention on Feb 22-23, where his successor will be chosen, and he will retain his nine-term seat in the House of Representatives. His party, with 29 of 512 seats in the House, is the third largest opposition bloc after the Japan Socialist Party and the Komeito, or clean government party.

Relations

Reaction to Tsukamoto's resignation varied. The ruling party expressed regret and leftist opposition parties called for the resignations of ruling party leaders tainted by the scandal.

Shintaro Abe, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said it was

Koreans to resume political talks

SEOUL, Feb 7. (AP): South and North Korean bitter rivals since their peninsula was divided 44 years ago, open political talks tomorrow to prepare for the first meeting of their prime ministers.

The prime ministers' summit, if held, would be the highest-level talks on easing tensions between the two Koreas since the separate countries were created in 1945 after the Japanese occupation of the peninsula ended.

The two sides were to meet at the truce village of Panmunjom with five-member delegations headed by vice-ministers. They were assigned to set terms for the premiers' talks on resolving political and military disputes between the rival nations.

Two days later, lawmakers from North and South Korea are to meet for an eighth round of

talks on a possible non-aggression pact and other tension-easing measures. It will be the lawmakers' first meeting this year.

Preparations also have begun to open another communications channel between the two countries in early March, this time for sports officials who want to form a single Korean team for the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing.

Another expert on relations with the North, Prof. Lee Ho-Jae of Korea University, added, "North Korea appears to be changing, but the change is very slow and would not bring a rapid improvement of relations with South Korea in a short period of time."

Last week, North Korea signed an unprecedented agreement with a South Korean industrialist to build several joint-venture projects, including a major tourist complex. But it remains unclear whether the business agreement indicated a genuine change in communist North Korea's policy toward the capitalist South.

The diplomatic moves come as relations between the Koreas are warming after decades of rivalry. There are conflicting signs, however, about how flexible the two nations are in view of their long-standing tensions.

"We are getting mixed signals from North Korea. Although they seem flexible on some issues, their basic positions are still very

strong and show no sign of change," said Kim Nam-Sik, a noted expert in the South on North Korean political affairs.

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Sharum said ticket sales so far have topped \$30,000. The total will be split between Dastagir and the museum.

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Relations

The diplomatic moves come as relations between the Koreas are warming after decades of rivalry. There are conflicting signs, however, about how flexible the two nations are in view of their long-standing tensions.

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Ophthalmology symposium concluded

By Lima Al Khalafawi

KUWAIT'S Second International Symposium on Ophthalmology which started Feb 4 officially ended yesterday.

At the conclusion of the symposium, a series of recommendations were made by experts who participated in the symposium.

Dr M. Saleh Sumbu, an ophthalmologist at Ibn Sina Hospital told the Arab Times that such recommendations included the need for corneal banks. Blindness from corneal diseases are high in the Arab world. Four such banks — two established in Saudi Arabia and the other two in Cairo will be opening shortly.

A meeting of Pan Arab Ophthalmologists was recommended to be held once every four years to discuss and evaluate researches in this field. A collective effort should also be held in planning symposia of various Arab countries. Better results and meaningful co-ordination were also some of the other recommendations.

Protection

Other recommendations which emerged from this symposia were: the need to protect children from being injured through the use of dangerous toys. Such injuries could lead to blindness the experts said. The need for formation of super specialists working groups (super specialist doctors) for various parts of the eye such as cataract, glaucoma and uveitis were also mentioned.

During the symposium, 65 research papers were submitted including studies on refractive surgery, cataract, external eye diseases and new methods of treatment in ophthalmology.

Dr Sami Al Rabeeb, head of the organising committee of the symposium pointed out that the percentage of blindness in the Arab world is very high due to the lack of health enlightenment among many patients. Most eye diseases are remediable if they are detected in the early stages, he said.

He called for further closer co-operation among Arab countries to make use of eye banks for the benefit of eye patients in the Arab world.

Doctors drop charges against abusive patient

TWO doctors dropped charges against a patient at the local police station in Jahra.

The police officer on duty heard that the patient had abused the examining doctor because he refused to see him when he discovered in his medical file that he was registered at another clinic.

Inquiries into the matter uncovered that the man had been recently discharged from the Ministry of Interior on grounds of mental illness.

New board for science club

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (KUNA): Kuwait Science Club today elected its new board for 1989-1990 term.

Club officials said Engineer Abdullah Abdul Muhsen Al Sherian was elected president, Adnan Youssef Al Meri vice-president, Dawoud Sulaiman Al Ahmad secretary-general, and Zaid Ahmed Al Qowaii treasurer of the club.

A general assembly meeting held last night at the club building voted nine members unopposed to the board.

New civil service registration rules

THE Civil Service Commission yesterday announced the formulation of new registration rules to govern the admission of students into the various colleges and faculties in Kuwait University, including Applied Education and Training.

A decision issued to this effect stated that exceptions would be made for students seeking registration, if they were the only mainstay of their family and needed a job. Payment offered is KD2 per hour for a maximum of 12 hours per week.

Under the new rules, students working 12 hours should not have their stipends combined with their social aid, if any, unless their jobs were supplied by the university or college at which they studied.

The beneficiaries from this decision are Kuwaiti students.

Traffic violations

4,828 motorists were fined last month, according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Interior. It added that relevant sentences were issued previously and had been enforced by the Enforcement Department. Apart from the above, the department said 57 motorists were sentenced to several periods in jail on charges ranging from speeding to manslaughter.

Sabah reviews league committee efforts with Lebanese envoy

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (KUNA): Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today conferred with Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Badra on efforts of the six-man Arab committee on Lebanon.

They reviewed the committee's achieved results so far through the various meetings and contacts it held.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that he briefed the ambassador on the committee's plan for the second stage during which meetings have been arranged with Lebanese Christian and Muslim leaders in Kuwait late this month.

The Acting Premier and Foreign Minister announced, in

School air-conditioning to be completed in five years

AN official source at the Ministry of Education has said that the provision of air-conditioning systems to existing schools will be part of a five-year long plan, prepared in co-ordination with the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

He said that the process will involve the demolition and rebuilding of existing school buildings as well as the reconsideration of the architectural designs of others.



The reception area

New military hospital to open in May

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT'S new military hospital originally scheduled to be opened on the National Day will according to a recent decision begin operation in May due to a delay in furniture and medical equipment delivery.

The impressive 258-bed hospital has been lying empty since last summer when the contractor, Sherikat Al Mabani Al Jazira, completed the building.

The hospital will be more than an apt replacement for the existing somewhat run-down 80-bed military hospital which has been in operation since 1960.

The hospital management led by the director, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Naseem, is now recruit-



Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Naseem

ing doctors and technicians from Britain and Egypt and nurses from India and the Philippines.

Civil Service Commission expertise questioned

THE expertise of the Civil Service Commission for organising the administrative staff of the state and recommending public policies should be seriously questioned, according to an official at Kuwait University.

Dr Fuad Al Falah from Kuwait University said that most of CSC staff were not qualified to provide such expertise.

Speaking at a seminar organised by Kuwait Municipality, he said that there are 970 employees working in the CSC. From this total, 25 per cent hold university degrees in geography, history and science, 50 per cent have Secondary School Certificates and 25 per cent Intermediate School Certificates or lower. Behaviour of employees depends on education and social values in

UAE bank urges establishment of car spare parts industry

A RECENT study carried out by the Industrial Bank of the United Arab Emirates urged the establishment of a car spare parts industry in the UAE to cover the requirements of the local market and the GCC states.

The study pointed out that the UAE imported 1,300 million dirhams worth of cars and transportation utilities last year in addition to 300 million dirhams worth of spare parts.

The study also revealed that GCC states are one of the highest importers of cars in the world.

Administrative development process to relocate staff, says official

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs Ahmad Al Hameeda said the administrative development process is an important pillar of the ministry's five-year development plan.

He said that the administrative process will not include the termination of ministry expatriate personnel, but will fill existing vacancies and shortages in certain areas by relocating staff in co-operation with the Civil

Iraq rejects pre-conditions for resuming peace talks

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (AP): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said in a letter to the United Nations secretary-general that Iraq rejects any Iranian pre-conditions for resuming peace talks, the official Iraqi News Agency reported yesterday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, carried the text of Aziz's letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, marking six months since de Cuellar announced the Gulf war ceasefire to the UN Security Council last Aug 8.

Aziz flew to New York yesterday, where he and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati are expected to attend a Security Council meeting tomorrow to extend a mandate for the UN ceasefire monitoring force for another 6 months.

Direct talks

It is not clear whether the two foreign ministers will hold face-to-face talks in New York.

Velayati said in Tehran yesterday that direct peace talks will begin soon, but did not give any date.

UN-sponsored peace talks in the Gulf war have been deadlocked since November



Tareq Aziz

over the issue of troop withdrawals.

The Aziz letter claimed that Iran was neglecting its obligations under the peace resolution and focussing on one point to the exclusion of others.

He was referring to Iranian insistence that troop withdrawals to pre-war borders should be the next stage in the peace process.

Iraq has refused to pull out its troops from a 259-square mile (1,000-square kilometre) stretch of Iranian territory until freedom

of navigation in the Gulf is guaranteed.

Iraq also wants the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf, cleared of sunken ships and other war wreckage.

INA reported that Aziz said in his letter Iraq was ready to co-operate with de Cuellar and his special envoy Jan Eliasson in a "constructive manner" to break the deadlock.

Joint committee

Eliasson, Sweden's UN Ambassador, held talks with senior officials in Tehran and Baghdad last month aimed at restarting the peace talks.

As a result of his talks, Iran and Iraq agreed to set up a joint military committee to work with the 350-man UN observer group, monitoring the ceasefire along the 740-mile (1,190-kilometre) border between Iran and Iraq.

Iraq last month unilaterally released 250 sick or elderly POWs and recently reopened Iraqi air space to Iran-bound civilian aircraft.

Tehran and Baghdad have both agreed to join a military working group under the auspices of the commander of the Iran-Iraq UN Military Observer Group General Slavko Jovic.

Waldegrave to visit Kuwait February 14

LONDON, Feb 7, (KUNA): British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave will start a six-day Gulf tour on February 12 which will take him to Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain, it was officially confirmed today.

The Foreign Office here said that Waldegrave would be in Iraq on Feb 12-13, followed by a similar two-day visit to Kuwait. He will later travel to Bahrain from February 16-17.

The trip forms part of Waldegrave's programme of visits to the region, the ministry pointed out.

Issues

His main purpose is to familiarise himself with the area and strengthen bilateral relations with the Gulf countries.

He will discuss regional issues including the ceasefire in the Gulf between Iran and Iraq, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and efforts to resolve the Palestinian question.

Waldegrave intends to meet senior members of government in each of the three countries.

Meanwhile, British sources said that recent PLO initiatives will be among the main topics of discussion, especially following Waldegrave's recent historic meeting in Tunis with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

The UN effort to establish a permanent peace between Iran and Iraq will also feature in the discussions, in addition to bilateral matters.

University plan to computerise court rulings

THE Faculty of Law at Kuwait University is undertaking a feasibility study to computerise all judicial sentences both past and those of the future, according to a university official.

Dr Ahmad Al Samdan from the university said that compilation of this data through computers will assist those interested in undertaking research studies on law.

Stages

The project is intended to be carried out in stages. Initially, data of sentences issued by the Cassation and Appeal Courts will be compiled. If this stage proves successful, the second stage will include entering sentences passed by the Criminal and Misdemeanor Courts.

The computer centre for the project will be situated at the Faculty of Law, Kuwait University. The project is expected to be completed within two to three years, he said.

Expand

He added that the faculty also intends to expand the project by computerising Arab Law Studies.

In a related development, the official said that the old academic system at Kuwait University will be implemented at the Faculty of Law as of the next academic year. The one-year system is better than the year system.

Overall, this reveals that the number of violations have dropped since 1987 — effectively meaning that drivers are accepting traffic directives and have developed better traffic awareness.

Violations described as dangerous are decreasing due to stricter punishments and the role played by the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior. The official described the decrease in violations as a good sign that drivers are accepting traffic directives and have developed better traffic awareness.

Traffic violations in 1989 totalled 181,119 — a considerable drop from the figure of 217,859 violations in 1987. Parking violations topped the list in 1988 with 81,194, passing red lights registered 5,336 citations and the least violations were for driving while under the influence of alcohol which totalled 47.

Overall, this reveals that the number of violations have dropped since 1987 — effectively meaning that drivers are better aware of traffic laws, Zafra said.

He added that traffic violations are divided into two types.

Two new specialist clinics

He said that preparations were also underway to open a specialist dermatology clinic at Sulabiya northern health centre in early March, and the required equipment and medicines would be provided soon.

He called on all people to co-operate with the medical and nursing staff to ensure the successful operation of the new services and help develop the level of these services further.

Bahrain Fair '89 attracts tourism and hospitality industry

THE Bahrain Fair '89, which takes place between Feb 16-26 at the Exhibition Centre, has attracted greater participation from tourism groups and the hospitality industry, according to the organisers, Arabian Exhibition Management (AEM).

"Tourism promotion will be one of the key elements of the fair and the exhibitors in this section include national tourism groups from Cyprus, India, Thailand and Egypt to name but a few," commented Brandon Jennings, chief executive of AEM.

The fair is widely expected to draw more visitors and generate more business than the first one held in January '88, according to some of the major exhibitors participating for the second time. Most of them reported they had received very good exposure and considerable holiday bookings during the ten day show last year.

"Our participation in Bahrain Fair '88 increased interest in India as a tourist spot and we were able to exceed our targets for 1988," said AA Aziz, of the Indian Tourist Office, Bahrain.

"We are sure of a similar response this year and will be promoting our sightseeing, shopping and healthcare packages of the Bahrain Fair '89," he added.

A similar sentiment was echoed by C. Nattie of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation who said, "We met over 2,000 potential visitors of the Bahrain Fair '88 and feel that such events serve to boost the travel trade in terms of revenue as well as image."

Leading hotels, airlines, travel agencies will be among those participating in the fair along with other tourism-related businesses. In view of increasing tourism growth in Bahrain many organisations will seek to focus their sales pitch of visiting tourists from neighbouring GCC countries and expatriate visitors.

One such organisation is Taj Mahal, a leading Bahraini travel agent specialising in promoting Bahrain in Europe and the West.

In addition to the tourism section of the Bahrain Fair '89 a large consumer element will also feature in which over 80 Bahraini companies will be offering a wide range of products for sale to the public. Some of these products will include cosmetics, perfumes, ladies fashions, arts and crafts, toys, books, household appliances and utensils, foods and sweets, electrical goods and many more offered at bargain prices.

Bahrain Mobility International is once again the official charity of the fair.

Essay competition on Nehru

On the occasion of the year-long birth centenary celebrations of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian embassy, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, will be conducting an essay competition on the subject: "Jawaharlal Nehru—the first Prime Minister of India".

The competition is open to all Bahraini children in both government and private schools.

Attractive prizes will be offered to the successful candidates in the competition by a number of companies in the island. Prizes will include airline tickets and electronic goods among others.

The essay competition is divided into two age groups: junior upto 10 years and senior from 11 to 17 years. The language will be Arabic or English. The length of the essay should be 500 words for the Junior Group and 1,000 words for the Senior Group.

Kuwait, Moscow universities sign co-operation agreement

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (KUNA): A framework of the agreement of scientific, cultural and technical co-operation concluded earlier between Kuwait and the Soviet Union.

VIDEO CORNER

Shape up — the Fergie way

By Brian Hollis

FOLLOWING the spate of newspaper articles and photographs showing Fergie before and after her dieting, most women will by now know that the 'in' way to get in shape is *Calanetics*, if possible supervised by Callan Pinckney herself. Instead of violent movements as in jogging and aerobics, she developed a series of exercises based on her ballet training which help tone up muscles by precise movements and contractions. Both her tapes '*Calanetics*' and '*Supercalanetics*' will be available this week.

Not to be outdone, two of Jane Fonda's workout tapes have also appeared in the shops lately (*The New Workout* and *Workout with Weights*). Many customers have been asking for her tapes over the last two or three years, only to be told that they are banned. However, as she has now changed allegiance from RCA to Lorimar for the production and distribution of her tapes, the newer productions have been given the nod. So no more excuses, ladies!

Cocoon was one of the top box office draws in 1986, so no surprise that the cast has returned in *Cocoon — the Return*. If you remember, at the end of the first part, many of the old aliens decide to go off with the aliens to their planet where time stands still. In the sequel, they return to earth for a holiday when the aliens decide to pop down to pick up a few more of cocoons which they had left behind. The plot is very predictable — teary reunion with the family they left behind, discuss-

sion of the various merits of living on earth or on a star, being immortal or temporal etc., with a bit of romance and a bit of suspense (a natural history museum gets hold of and tries to open a cocoon). All amusing enough with the expected class performances from Don Ameche and Wilford Brimley.

Seven Hours to Judgement is a good new suspense thriller starring Beau Bridges and Ron Liebmann. A gang mugs a woman in a subway station and then throws her onto the line in front of an oncoming train. The judge is unable to get enough evidence to send the gang to trial and is forced to set them free — for a second time, even though the husband of the victim has pleaded for one day's stay of execution because he has been promised conclusive evidence from a rival gang. Incensed, the victim's husband kidnaps the judge's wife and then gives the judge seven hours to get the conclusive evidence, failing which he will kill the wife. There are some neat twists and turns in the plot, and some nailbiting moments as the deadline draws nearer.

Relative Secrets is a gentle meandering comedy based in Hicksville, south USA. The central family are the Laidlaws, who are apparently the unluckiest people in town. Dad (Hoyt Axton) returns from the war and discovers his son still hasn't forgiven him for the death of Mom in a car accident. Karen Black plays the unrestrained and cross-eyed Aunt Zelma. The movie swings from slapstick to serious, through family feuds, local rivalries, young

love and war profiteering at a moment's notice, and unless you've got both eyes on the screen, it's hard to keep up with the plot.

Comrades is based on the true story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, at the time of the repeal of the corn laws in Britain. The leader of the martyrs, George Loveless, also a lay preacher, is driven to strike action by the greed of the local landowner, who reneges on a deal which would give the farmers an extra shilling a week.

The army is called in and the strikers transported to Australia, where they spend several grueling years before petitions for their release and return home are successful. An all-star cast includes James Fox, Vanessa Redgrave, Michael Hordern and many others, but the pace is slow — this is an excellent slice of film history, not an action movie.

Bestseller fans will revel in *A Fortunate Pilgrim*, a semi-documentary about the life of Sophia Loren, starring herself and directed by her husband Carlo Ponti. Alternatively there is a continuation of *Anne of Green Gables*, the story of a young girl sent to live with her aunt in rural Nova Scotia. A third possibility is *Dadah is Death*, the true story of two young Australians sentenced to death in Malaysia in 1985 for drug dealing, and starring Julie Christie as the mother pleading for her son's life.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fimta/Farwaniya: Video Club, Salmaiyah, and Video Nau, Salhiya Complex.

teller will conduct the sessions. Feb 9/16 (9.30 — 10.30 am) a session for children — aged seven to 10; (11 am-12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.

All are welcome. Free admission. But it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

KAPILU

FEB 10 (Friday, 2 pm, 6 pm): The Association of

Filipinos in Kuwait, KAPILU, will hold their first Bayanihan (get-together) at the Zahra Complex, Salmaiyah.

Kuwait Society for Formative Arts

Until Feb. 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

Kuwait Science Museum

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT — THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum

SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; FRIDAYS: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House

SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

EXHIBITIONS

Children's Books of the Year '88

UNTIL FEB 16: An exhibition of British books for children, written by award-winning writers and illustrators, will be held at the British Council, Mansouriya.

The programme is as follows: FILMS: Feb 8 (6 pm): Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (cartoon); Feb 15 (6 pm): The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (cartoons). STORYTELLING SESSION: A professional story

French film festival

SOME of the latest French films will be shown at the sixth French film festival which will open next week in Kuwait. The festival is being organised by the Cine Club in co-operation with the French Cultural Centre.

French productions from 1986 to 1988 depicting the latest accomplishments of filmmakers in France will be shown. "Our intention is to show the impact of the young on upcoming French directors on the film industry," according to a Cine Club press release.

The following feature films will be shown during the festi-

Makati vs Caloocan City; Las Pinas vs Paranaque. The tournament has been sponsored by Prince Amin Aga Khan last month at the Zamana Gallery in London.

The exhibition entitled "Islamic Calligraphy: Sacred and Secular Writings" contains many rare and beautiful examples dating back over the past one thousand years. The exhibits, drawn from Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, India and Africa, have been sent by private galleries.

The tradition of calligraphy started with the earliest written versions of the Quran in the mid-seventh century, and widely practised between the ninth and 10th centuries, when Arabic calligraphy entered a more codified form. It declined with the spread of printing throughout the Islamic world. Calligraphy, said Prince Amin, enjoyed 10 centuries of uninterrupted growth and splendour and is a tradition which endures till now among Muslims scattered across the far reaches of the globe.

"The script is a binding artistic and visual medium between Muslims, through the Holy Quran, and also between the various peoples and minorities forming the Muslim umma," he said. Prince Amin believes that calligraphy "constitutes a formal expression of Islam's universality and of its universal aspirations."

The Zamana Gallery, established in 1985 by the Aga Khan, is dedicated to presenting the arts, architecture and culture of the developing world.

The exhibition, which has already received much acclaim in Geneva and Dublin, will transfer to Zurich and Amman later this year. It runs in London until March 26.

Prince Amin (left) admiring one of the exhibits at the exhibition. David James, curator of Islamic Art at Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, is also seen.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fimta/Farwaniya: Video Club, Salmaiyah, and Video Nau, Salhiya Complex.

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery

Until Feb. 9: "The Orient in their Eyes", a collection of works by a group of Arab and European painters will be shown at the gallery. Open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Iwan Gallery

Exhibition of lithographs by three 19th century Orientalists. Open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Kuwait Society for Formative Arts

Until Feb. 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

Kuwait Science Museum

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT — THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum

SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; FRIDAYS: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House

SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

EXHIBITIONS

Children's Books of the Year '88

UNTIL FEB 16: An exhibition of British books for children, written by award-winning writers and illustrators, will be held at the British Council, Mansouriya.

The programme is as follows: FILMS: Feb 8 (6 pm): Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (cartoon); Feb 15 (6 pm): The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (cartoons). STORYTELLING SESSION: A professional story

teller will conduct the sessions. Feb 9/16 (9.30 — 10.30 am) a session for children — aged seven to 10; (11 am-12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.

All are welcome. Free admission. But it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

KAPILU

FEB 10 (Friday, 2 pm, 6 pm): The Association of

Filipinos in Kuwait, KAPILU, will hold their first

Bayanihan (get-together) at the Zahra Complex, Salmaiyah.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHEN men speak ill of thee, live so as nobody may believe them — *Plato, Greek philosopher (427 BC-347 BC)*

Afghans want fighting stopped

By Kathy Gannon

LOGHARI, Afghanistan, (AP): Azaldin says he doesn't care who rules his ravaged country as long as the fighting stops and the communists fail.

The 37-year-old elementary schoolteacher from the nearby city of Ghazni in eastern Afghanistan is typical of many Afghans who have braved a decade of brutal fighting between communist forces and Muslim mujahedeen, or "holy warriors."

Rebel leaders are fighting for an Islamic Republic of Afghanistan but so far have failed to agree on how to slice any post-war political pie.

"They have had no unity," said Azaldin in an interview. "Each of them wants power. But seven kings or presidents in Afghanistan is impossible."

Fazle Mohammad, an elderly merchant who sells spices and grain from a grimy adobe shop in this small settlement, says he doesn't know one guerrilla chief from another.

"We follow the local mujahedeen commanders," he said.

Sympathy

Fazle said his sympathy for the guerrillas forced him to abandon his original shop in the communists' held centre of Ghazni, about 75 miles (125 kms) southwest of the Afghan capital.

With the Feb 15 deadline for the final Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan drawing near, mujahedeen political leaders have been trying to reach a political consensus.

They have plans for a "shura," or consultative council, to convene on Friday in Pakistan, but its composition remains uncertain.

Those invited include representatives of rebels based in Iran. These mujahedeen belong to the minority Shi'ite Muslim sect, which comprises about 17 per cent of Afghanistan's population.

The majority of Afghans are Sunnis, as are the Pakistan-based rebel groups. Seven of the most powerful rebel leaders are based in Peshawar, Pakistan. Both sides have yet to agree on their proportional representation on the council.

Hungary warned of social explosion

By Emi Varadi

BUDAPEST, (Reuter): A top intellectual expelled from the Communist Party last year believes Hungary should abandon its "single-party dictatorship" swiftly to minimise the risk of a social explosion.

"The transition to a multi-party system should be speeded up..." Professor Mihaly Bihari told Reuters in an interview.

"We should be thinking in terms of months, a year, but not more than 1.5 years."

Widely seen as Hungary's leading political scientist, Bihari was expelled from the party last April for practising what it began advocating only later: dialogue with new political groups now flowering in a warmer political climate.

Now he has links with the Hungarian Social Democratic Party (HSDP), forcibly absorbed by the Communist Party in 1948 but relaunched by veteran members last November.

Constitution

Since party leader Karoly Grosz ousted veteran leader Janos Kadar in May, Hungary has launched work on a new constitution and plans a return to a multi-party system — though some observers question how much power the communists are ready to relinquish.

Bihari says Hungary needs a coalition of political forces during the transition to avoid what he calls a social explosion or a return to monolithic rule by the party-dominated state bureaucracy.

"The period of provisional coalition would simultaneously be the period for laying the foundations of a competitive multi-party democracy," he says.

That had worked in Spain following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975, he said. "There, with a transition period of 1-1/2 or two years they managed to create a working democracy after 40 years of one-party dictatorship."

The shura's main task is to name a transitional government that can step into power if mujahedeen topple the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Moscow agreed last April to withdraw an estimated 100,000 from Afghanistan after nearly a decade of stalemate in the country. The Red Army intervened in December 1979 to bail out besieged communists in Kabul who seized power in a military coup the year before.

Mohammad Zai, a 78-year-old former subsistence farmer who now runs errands for the mujahedeen, says that for him, too, politics plays second to peace.

"For me it's not a problem who it is who leads Afghanistan as long as the people like him and choose him," Zai said. "People think, God willing, Ghazni will be free, and there will be an Islamic government, and we can live as we want."

Grab

Fazle said that if individual guerrilla leaders make a grab for power after the final Soviet withdrawal, they will get little support from battle-weary Afghans.

"We just want an Islamic government..." he said. "We didn't fight for anybody but God, Islam and our country. Even our small children understand this."

Abdul Raqib, a mujahedeen commander who leads a small rebel commando unit within the Ghazni city limits concurred.

"When we began our jihad (holy war) we didn't fight for the leaders and parties but for Islam, the liberty of Afghanistan and the people," he said.

And in an indirect slight to noncombatant mujahedeen outside the country, Rahoney Wadak, a rebel field commander said it is only rebels who actually have fought the war who have the trust of the Afghan people.

"Everything is different inside Afghanistan and outside," he said. In Peshawar, "there is good food, never any bombing and never any helicopters."

"Inside Afghanistan there is a war, with wounded and hungry people," he said. "It is very difficult."

Middle East may gobble up Bush's time and energy

Bihari said Hungary's future course was still unclear, but he saw four possible scenarios:

The first was a return to dogmatic dictatorship by a bureaucracy dedicated to order, he said. "But Hungarians would probably not accept this and an explosion could occur."

Explosion

The second possibility he foresaw was a social explosion without such a development. Bihari says this could happen as early as this spring, as even official statistics showed nearly a quarter of Hungary's 10.5 million people had an unacceptable low standard of living.

"I expect street demonstrations, series of strikes, the accumulation of just, but ungrateful demands. I think of mass civil disobedience, the population en masse refusing payment of taxes in February or March."

A third scenario was a Yugoslav-style accumulation of economic, political and moral crises with a series of changes at the top as successive leaders failed to find a solution.

Finally, he said, there could be a series of planned and radical reforms.

Bihari says the last alternative seems least likely as the "constellation of power" many had hoped for has simply not come about. "But this spring might bring significant changes needed to strengthen the chances of the fourth alternative."

Readmitted

The 43-year-old university professor does not want to be readmitted to the Communist Party and says the party he would join does not yet exist. But the HSDP says Bihari will join it in a leading role. He is due to address the HSDP on Feb 16 at a major meeting on the party's political programme.

Political observers say a strong HSDP involving Bihari could attract significant support in Hungary.

Iran's Army and arms industry provide base for new power

By Eric Hall

DUBAI, (Reuter): Ten years of revolution and eight years of war have left Iran with an Army and an arms industry capable of making it a dominant power again.

Military analysts said that as these two children of the revolution grow, the balance of power will tilt increasingly from Iraq to Iran, jeopardising the fragile peace imposed with the Aug 20 ceasefire in their eight-year Gulf war.

"A durable settlement relies on a balance of power, and that does not exist," said Shahram Chubin, an authority on the Gulf war from the Geneva Institute of International Affairs.

"Time favours Iraq in the short-term, but in the long-term it favours Iran," he added.

The late Shah of Iran, who fled his country's Islamic Revolution in January 1979, created an elitist

Army, strongly reliant on his patronage, on US military advisers and on the arms industry dominated by US companies he built.

Demoralised

The purge of Army commanders and the rise of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards — the armed, ideological spearhead of the revolution — demoralised

the regular Army.

Military analyst Nikolai Schahgaldian of the US Rand Corporation estimated that deserts reached 60 per cent

five months after the revolutionaries took power of Feb 11.

The break with the United States cut off Iran's arms industry from US expertise and spares.

Sophisticated US planes lie

mothballed for lack of parts.

But the professional Army gained experience, restored discipline and won prestige in the hard-fought war with Iraq.

"A new, young, war-tested officer class appeared, usually from the lower and lower-middle classes, tied to leading clerics socially... (who) take their role in society seriously," said Schahgaldian.

The Army's new officer corps has little central power and no tradition of coups, making it a powerful tool of the government, the analysts said.

The Revolutionary Guards expanded to become a 300,000-strong force with naval units manning fast Swedish patrol boats, air defence cadres and

control of the national militia.

But the guards lost much of their earlier heroic standing by lack of battlefield success and an apparent readiness to sacrifice the lives of their troops.

Their status was further eroded when Tehran's leaders accused them of corruption and incompetence, analysts said.

The demands of war forced the arms industry to utilise available technology, produce more reliable weapon systems and develop an export industry.

Anoushiravan Ehteshami of Britain's Exeter University, said that at the time of the revolution Iran had four main arms factories. Since 1979 a further 24 plants and thousands of military repair shops have sprung up.

Defence Minister Mohammad Hossein Jalali said in October that arms production had risen three-fold since the revolution. Total economic growth has been only around four percent a year.

Experts attending an international airshow in Dubai last week said Iran was offering for sale abroad military radios, guns, grenades and mortars.

Help

Chinese technicians have been the main source of foreign help, said Ehteshami. Iran has been able to build its own missiles and plans a locally-produced jet fighter.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, influential parliamentary speaker and acting armed forces commander-in-chief, has said:

"One of the war's blessings is the way our forces have acquired the construction technology and learned the use of different kinds of missiles."

Some analysts believed Iran has been licenced by China and North Korea to assemble its own MIG-19 fighter and is able increasingly to service its old US aircraft.

They said it has agreements with China to produce artillery and West German help with submarine technology and production of a landing craft.

Rafsanjani was last year charged with restructuring both the Revolutionary Guards and the Army.

His ability to dissipate the rivalries and bring the guards and the Army into a co-ordinated structure will largely determine whether Tehran emerges as a dominant power in the region, analysts agreed.

Reagan busy making money

By Jeff Wilson

LOS ANGELES, (AP): Ronald Reagan left the White House two weeks ago to retire as elder statesman in his beloved California, but instead of lounging around the pool, he's been busy lining up work and visiting places from his past.

The ex-president has signed a book deal worth up to \$7 million, lined up a \$50,000-per-speech lecture contract and opened his Century City offices, where a variety of offers are pouring in.

Sell

There are also social demands: A Feb 23 Palm Springs gala honouring Elizabeth Taylor and a private welcome-home dinner for Feb 25.

"The change of address hasn't caused any slowing down of their (the Reagans') schedule," said Reagan spokesman Mark Weinberg. "They are very active and on the go."

Foreign dignitaries dropping in on Reagan have included Ugandan President H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni.

Reagan is apparently fielding offers to sit on corporate boards.

He is also being sought for radio, television and motion pictures.

Hours after relinquishing the

presidency to George Bush on Jan 20, Reagan told cheering supporters at a Los Angeles International Airport rally that he had been asked to star in a sequel to "Bedtime for Bonzo," the 1951 comedy he starred with chimpanzee.

"Only this time they wanted me to play Bonzo," he joked.

However, longtime friend Irving "Sweezy" Lazar, who said he was working on an unspecified project for the ex-president, dismissed as "ridiculous" the possibility of a Reagan cinematic comeback.

"There are many invitations for a variety of opportunities, but President Reagan has no current plans to appear in any movies," Weinberg said.

For now, Reagan's top priority is his memoirs, a book for Simon and Schuster that the former president promised would be "An honest and straightforward look at what we have been, with some thoughts on where we're going."

work, counselling, librarianship and teaching.

The BRC believes the programme's replacement, the new Employment Training Scheme, could open up still better and broader opportunities, provided refugees are allocated enough work experience and training places.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1560 — Turkish galleys rout Spanish fleet under Duke of Medina Celi off Tripoli.

1587 — Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded after being accused of plotting murder of England's Queen Elizabeth I.

1725 — Russia's Peter the Great dies, is succeeded by his widow, Catherine.

1807 — Indecisive battle at Eylau, Russia, between France and combined Russo-Prussian Army.

1809 — Austria's King Francis I decides on war with France.

1872 — Earl of Mayo, vicere of India, is murdered.

1940 — During World War II, German Nazis shoot every tenth person in two Polish villages near Warsaw in reprisal for deaths of German soldiers.

1949 — Eire declares it is unable to participate in Nato while Ireland remains divided.

1962 — US military Council is established in South Vietnam.

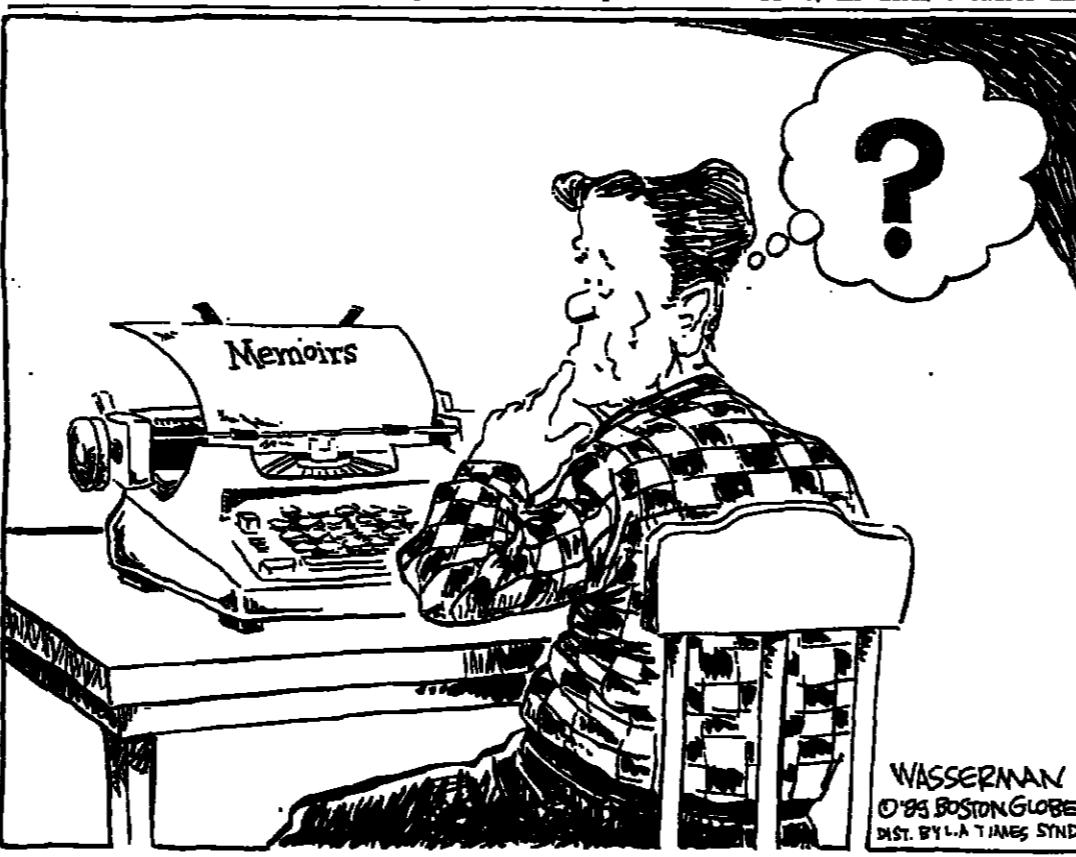
1963 — Rebels in Baghdad, Iraq, assassinate Premier Abdul Karim Kassem who is replaced by Abdul Salam Arif.

1964 — Holland's Princess Irene renounces her rights to throne to marry Roman Catholic Spanish Prince, Carlos Hugo of Bourbon-Parme.

1974 — Three US Skylab astronauts return to earth after setting record of 84 days in orbit.

1975 — Soviet spacemen begin training with Americans for joint US-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz flights.

1988 — European Economic Community's 12 member nations deplore Israeli tactics on its occupied territories as illegal and repressive.



Quayle shows aplomb on first foreign trip as vice-president

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): Vice-President Dan Quayle, savaged by critics as a lightweight during the US election campaign, has carried out his first diplomatic assignment with aplomb but showed an impetuous streak that could hamper efforts to improve his image.

Quayle, who began a three-day Latin American goodwill trip at the inauguration of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, met 10 foreign leaders during his stay in Caracas last week and generally made a favourable impression.

A senior adviser to President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica said the vice-president had bad relations with US officials, particularly Carter and Reagan.

"The impression we had from TV, newspapers, everyone, was that the guy didn't have experience," said Francisco Aguirre-Urbina. The Costa Rican official added that the reaction to Quayle among people he met in Venezuela's capital was "very positive."

Marks

Life begins at 40 ... hopefully

By Kathy Cuddihy

MY husband is a kind and considerate person. At least, most of the time he fits that description. Occasionally, however, his actions make me reconsider my impression.

For instance, one of his good points is that he sometimes surprises me with little gifts. Usually these thoughtful gestures delight me. His most recent offering, though, gave me serious pause for reflection. I certainly don't want to appear ungrateful, but can anyone blame me for not getting excited about receiving a book called "Growing Younger ... Nutritional Rejuvenation For People Over Forty." For goodness sake, I'm not even forty ... yet.

No doubt the man had my best interests at heart, but the implication is that I look like I'm growing older and he wants to reverse the trend before it's too late. No woman needs that kind of consideration. Besides, as far as I know, I'm not suffering any of the symptoms or ailments which the book alleges are prevalent in the over-40 age group ... at least, not yet. In fact, I can hardly even pronounce some of them: transient ischemic attack,

emphysema, diverticulosis, hypothyroidism — plus a host of other indecipherable nasties.

The expression "Life Begins At Forty" used to enjoy immense popularity — especially among people over 40. Now that I get closer to the Big-Four-Oh, everyone suddenly changes their attitude and admitting that over 40's are actually riddled with defects — real or imagined? What a depressing thought. I mean, if someone can come out with a bestseller on the topic, shouldn't that tell us something ... something we probably don't want to know?

So far, I've only read the book's jacket flaps and selectively skimmed a few of the chapters. It is abundantly clear, however, that if I have any of actually "growing younger," I'm going to have to put in some serious effort. Wishful thinking won't do it, nor will simply reading the book. At the very least, I'm going to have to make fairly basic changes, like eating, exercise and attitude. And it seems to me that that doesn't leave a whole lot else to reform.

It's certainly not that I don't eat well. On the contrary, I eat very well,

perhaps a little too well at times. The trouble is, a consistency of quality sometimes lacks.

In amongst all those fresh fruits and vegetables and other bits of unprocessed, fibrous nutrition, I periodically tend to indulge in a few deliciously destructive goodies such as *meringue glace*, or *pate de foie gras* or, in a moment of madness, a piece of Sinful Silk pie with a generous dollop of whipped cream (will I make it through the writing of this article before my inherent weakness causes me to raid the refrigerator?).

Growing Younger not only advises against delightful deviations such as these, but it recommends supplements which hardly serve to titillate the palate: fish oil, activated charcoal, co-enzyme-Q, wheat grass and barley grass. Yuk. I have to admit I have room for improvement, but doesn't this smack of that dreaded word "radicalism?"

I don't fare too much better in the realm of exercise. I don't mind psychologically unobtrusive exercise, such as commuting from one room to another, or something more strenuous

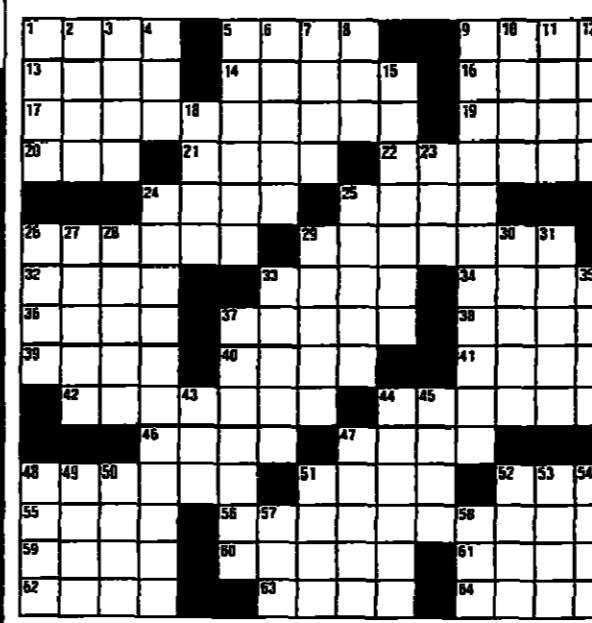
such as pounding pavements in Paris or London, or even a challenging game of tennis. But exercise for the sake of exercise gives me a pain in the neck ... at the very least. However, as the book says, at a certain age you have to "use it or lose it." Sheesh! What a choice. There probably isn't a lot of hope for my mind — I think I lost that ages ago — but perhaps it's not such a bad idea to do something to prevent my body from reaching new horizons.

As far as attitude goes, I can't fault myself on that score. Since the experts tell us that age is not a number but an attitude, I figure my attitude places me somewhere in my teens ... at least on my better days. Admittedly I experience the odd Day of Doubt, but nothing from which I don't bounce back quickly.

Maybe I should give Growing Younger more than a cursory glance. Since my husband is in the Over-40 age group he just might know something that I don't about this business.

In the meantime, I'll continue to enjoy life with robust enthusiasm. And if it really does get better after 40, then I can only hope that at my pace I live to enjoy it!

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1. Mitchell mansion	55. Gemayel of Lebanon	27. Turkish city on the Seyhan	45. Biblical well	51. Mars: Comb. form	55. "Mike Hammer" star
5. Room in a casa	56. "Mike Hammer" star	28. Poe bird	46. Fido's feet	52. Young or old follower	57. A Kennedy
9. Actress	59. Initiative	29. Domesticated	47. Gave zest to	53. June honorees	58. Corn serving
13. Hayworth	60. Cleave	30. Growing out	48. "Irene" star	54. Take five	59. "Spenser: For Hire" star
14. Harbor Isauras	61. Mars: Comb. form	31. Had a meal	49. Radiate	60. "The Rockford Files" star	60. "Eric Paster" chef
16. Norse god	62. Young or old follower	33. Church leaders	50. River to the Seine	61. Molten rock	61. "Loni"
17. "McMillan and Wife" star	63. June honorees	35. Part of EST	51. Molten rock	52. Go in haste	62. "Eric Paster" chef
19. Karate trophy	64. Take five	36. "Assam	53. Top-flight fliers	54. Shell's partner	63. "Lena" Naves
20. Gof gadget	65. Forest gods	37. Church	55. "Bobble" tonic	56. "Flea" circus	64. "Seen" Sags
21. Crude metals	66. Biblical well	38. "Trma" insect	56. "Amie" Noel Peter	57. "Torma" insect	65. "Eaten" aunt
22. Standards of perfection	67. "Gave zest to"	39. Certain bills	57. "Debased" drunk	58. "Flea" circus	66. "Agua" kind
24. Short memos	68. "Fido's" feet	40. Mimics	59. "Ensue" Oleg	60. "Torma" insect	67. "Wobbly" tonic
25. Affirm	69. "Radiate"	41. Bit of gossip	60. "Torma" insect	61. "Terra" gassed	68. "Amie" Noel Peter
26. Diamond weights	70. "River to the Seine"	42. Ruled	62. "Goddess" to Caesar	62. "Deride" peen	69. "Eaten" aunt
29. Picked up the tab	71. "Minus"	43. Circle sections	63. "Wax: Comb. form"	63. "Eric" pastry chef	70. "Flea" circus
32. Dutch cheese	72. "Venezuelan river"	47. Assail verbally	64. "Melody"	64. "Loni" erin olive	71. "Eric" pastry chef
33. Bucket	73. "Spenser: For Hire" star	48. Port on Illinois River	65. "Wax: Comb. form"	65. "Doss" lena naves	72. "Seen" sags
34. Cohesive group	74. "Shells' partner"	51. Overdue	66. "Wax: Comb. form"	66. "Eric" pastry chef	73. "Eaten" aunt
36. Critic's kudos	75. "Corn serving"	52. Possesses	67. "Wax: Comb. form"	67. "Flea" circus	74. "Agua" kind
37. Heads of comets					
38. Rajah's mate					
39. Certain bills					
40. Mimics					
41. Bit of gossip					
42. Ruled					
46. Circle sections					
47. Assail verbally					
48. Port on Illinois River					
51. Overdue					
52. Possesses					

GOREN BRIDGE

By CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A SPOT MAKES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

♦ 8 5 2	♦ 5
♦ 10 8 7 4	♦ 3
♦ K Q 10 9	♦ 6 3
♦ A 9 2	♦ J 8 4 2
♦ A 7 6 3	♦ K 5

The bidding:

South West North East

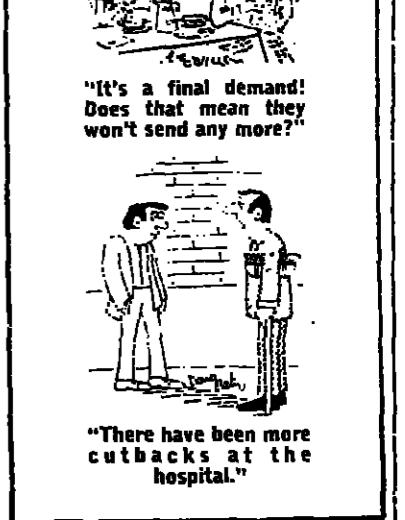
4 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Declarer would have had to play everything out of his hand and, as long as West rose with the ace of clubs on the first lead of the suit, the defenders would make a spade, a club and two diamond tricks for down one.

Unfortunately, West led his low heart. Dummy's five was played perforce, and to everyone's surprise declarer found he was on the table. All was not yet well. Declarer led the jack of diamonds, and when East played low, he was faced with a guess — should he run the jack or go up with the king.

There was one slight pointer to the winning play. Since declarer could easily have a singleton king of diamonds, East might have risen with the ace if he held that card. Relying on his judgment, declarer played low, and he was delighted to find West had to win the trick with the ace.

Declarer ended up losing just one trick in each side suit. Have you ever noticed how often it is that when someone gets a lucky break, he succeeds in cashing in on it?



How do you hold on to your man?</

New labour regulations for the private sector in Kuwait

THE minister of social affairs and labour, having perused the Private Sector Labour Law No. 38 of 1964 and

● The decree promulgated on Jan 7, 1979, concerning the functions and powers of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;

● The Ministerial Resolution No. 62 of 1982, directing to refer to the consulates of the State of Kuwait abroad or the Ministry of the Interior in Kuwait;

● The resolution of the minister of commerce and industry Nos. 51 and 52/1982, 43, 44 and 45/1983, as well as Nos. 7 and 8/1984, duly permitting the Gulf Co-operation Council Arab states nationals to practice and carry on certain professions and activities in the State of Kuwait;

● The Ministerial Resolution No. 82 of 1984, permitting the domestic servants and the like to render service to the private sector;

● The Ministerial Resolution No. 75 of 1984, concerning Gulf Co-operation Council Arab states nationals to be treated on the basis of reciprocity as same as Kuwaitis regarding all dealings relating to labour;

● The Ministerial Resolutions Nos. 77, 78 and 83 of 1984, governing the issuance of labour permits for the private sector non-Kuwaiti labourers;

● The Ministerial Resolutions Nos. 81 of 1984 and 952 of 1985, concerning the use of Kuwait Airways Corporation flights; and

Pursuant to the requirements of public interests and upon the proposal made by the undersecretary of the ministry,

Hereby decides:

(1) The scope of resolution applicability

Article 1

The provisions of this resolution shall be applicable to employers employing Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti labourers, as well as to the labourers and professionals, duly licensed by the competent authorities, partners of Kuwaiti companies, craftsmen and professionals licensed by this ministry.

(2) Registration of employers

Article 2

The licences granted to employers for practicing the relevant activities shall be registered at the Labour Department, within whose jurisdiction the main office and centre of business of the employer concerned is located.

The following documents are required to be attached to the application form of registration:

1) A copy of the memorandum of association of the applicant company, and any pertinent amendments, if available.

2) A copy of the licence issued by the concerned authority for practicing the pertinent activity of profession.

3) A certificate from the Public Authority for Civil Information, showing the main address and centre of

business of employer together with all pertinent branches, if any.

4) The specimen of the employer's signature or that of the signature of any person authorised by him/her under the provisions of this resolution.

Article 3

Any person authorised to sign on behalf of the employer shall be a Kuwaiti national or a Gulf Co-operation Council state's citizen. As for the companies comprising non-Gulf Co-operation Council states partners, only the signature of a Kuwaiti partner or such a person delegated by him/her and authorised to sign in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article shall prevail.

The specimen of the employer's signature or of the person authorised by him/her shall be certified by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry if the relevant activities are subject to registration with Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry or approved by the competent authority issued the licence for practicing the pertinent profession or approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Article 4

The employer is required to keep the labour department concerned informed of any change occurs in his/her establishment (firm), its branches, the licences issued for practicing the pertinent activities and any complete or partial suspension of the employer's business activities. The failure to notify the ministry of any particulars of the aforesaid information shall result in application of the necessary measures by the competent Labour Department in this respect.

(3) Employment of Kuwaitis and the like

Article 5

Unemployed Kuwaitis and Gulf Co-operation Council Arab states nationals shall register their names with any competent Labour Department.

Every registered labourer shall be issued with a registration-identity-card, showing his/her name, address, nationality, qualifications, the type of work he/she desires to perform and the name of his/her last employer if any.

Consequently, the competent labour department shall, among themselves, exchange and intercommunicate all particulars and information of the registered labourers.

Moreover, such registered labourers may be referred by the concerned officers from one department to another.

The competent departments shall, then, publish the pertinent particulars and information, besides endeavouring to find them employment opportunities, and nominate the same for suitable jobs, duly conforming with their technical and academic qualifications.

1) Non-availability of a Kuwaiti national or the like registered with the said department who is able to perform the job required.

2) Availability of a satisfactory justification, indicating the need of the labourer required, pursuant to the employer's business activity or the project already contracted, for implementation by him/her and the number of the labourers currently existing in his/her service.

3) Conformity of the required labourer's profession with the employer's business activity, or any of the auxiliary or complementary activities exercised by the employer for supporting his/her main business activity.

Further rules and regulations and/or specific stipulations may be added under a resolution issued by the undersecretary of the ministry for the purpose of issuing labour permits.

Article 6

In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, the competent labour departments shall not issue any employer with a labour permit to bring in, or employ any alien labourers, if any of

On January 14, 1989, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour issued a Ministerial Resolution No. 87 organising the private sector labour in Kuwait. These regulations have been published

in the official gazette and will come into force on March 22, 1989. As a service to our readers, the Arab Times publishes below a full text of these new regulations.



A group of expatriate workers in Kuwait. Ministerial Resolution No. 87 affects them all.

(4) Employment of non-Kuwaitis

Article 8

The competent labour department shall issue the employer with a labour permit to employ non-Kuwaiti labourers in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

1) Non-availability of a Kuwaiti national or the like registered with the said department who is able to perform the job required.

2) Availability of a satisfactory justification, indicating the need of the labourer required, pursuant to the employer's business activity or the project already contracted, for implementation by him/her and the number of the labourers currently existing in his/her service.

3) Conformity of the required labourer's profession with the employer's business activity, or any of the auxiliary or complementary activities exercised by the employer for supporting his/her main business activity.

Further rules and regulations and/or specific stipulations may be added under a resolution issued by the undersecretary of the ministry for the purpose of issuing labour permits.

Article 9

Issuance of a labour permit for a non-Kuwaiti labourer shall be applied for by completing the appropriate form, prepared by the ministry for this purpose, with

Article 10

The employer shall undertake to appoint the labourer issued with a labour permit so as to join his/her service, and submit to the competent labour department the labour permit issued by this ministry within a maximum period of one month, with effect from the date of the labourer's entry or arrival in Kuwait, with the following documents properly attached thereto:

1) The travelling documents of the labourer i.e. his/her passport.

2) The relevant labour permit, duly certified by the Kuwaiti consulate at the natural domicile (country) of the required labourer, otherwise the measures applied by the Ministry of the Interior in this respect shall be observed, provided that the said permit is endorsed by the border authorities.

3) The signature specimen of the employer or any person deputed by him/her to sign on his/her behalf.

In case the employer has failed to abide by the provisions stipulated in this resolution, the ministry may cancel the relevant labour permit and order the deportation of the labourer in question at the expense of the employer or to suspend any additional labour force newly required for a maximum period of three months until such contravention is rectified, whichever is shorter.

4) Conformity of the required labourer's profession with the employer's business activity, or any of the auxiliary or complementary activities exercised by the employer for supporting his/her main business activity.

Further rules and regulations and/or specific stipulations may be added under a resolution issued by the undersecretary of the ministry for the purpose of issuing labour permits.

Article 9

Issuance of a labour permit for a non-Kuwaiti labourer shall be applied for by completing the appropriate form, prepared by the ministry for this purpose, with

the following documents attached thereto:

1) A copy of the academic and/or educational qualifications, or a testimonial showing the practical and/or applied experience of the labourer required.

2) A copy of the page of the required labourer's particulars specified in his/her passport.

3) Specimen or signature of the employer or of any person duly delegated to sign on his/her behalf.

4) The travelling documents of the labourer i.e. his/her passport.

5) The relevant labour permit, duly certified by the Kuwaiti consulate at the natural domicile (country) of the required labourer, otherwise the measures applied by the Ministry of the Interior in this respect shall be observed, provided that the said permit is endorsed by the border authorities.

6) The signature specimen of the employer or any person deputed by him/her to sign on his/her behalf.

In case the employer has failed to abide by the provisions stipulated in this resolution, the ministry may cancel the relevant labour permit and order the deportation of the labourer in question at the expense of the employer or to suspend any additional labour force newly required for a maximum period of three months until such contravention is rectified, whichever is shorter.

Article 11

Employment of labourers by an employer is prohibited, unless the ministry permits him, to do so, or issue labour permits in respect of such labourers to other employers.

In the event of any contravention made by the employer with regard to the provision of this article, the labour permits issued in respect of such labourers shall be cancelled, and the labourers involved shall be deported home at the expense of the employer for whom they were found working.

Moreover, the competent

labour department shall have the right to suspend any new and/or additional labour force required by either of the involved i.e. the first or second employer for a period of six (6) months, or until such contravention is rectified, whichever comes first.

Article 12

For every labourer who is issued with a labour permit to serve a certain employer, it is prohibited to work for another employer, even as a part-time, and under the consent of the principal employer. In such a case the labour permit issued to the involved labourer shall be cancelled, and the labourer in question shall be deported home at the expense of the employer for whom he was found working.

Article 13

Labour permits shall be issued to craftsmen, professionals and company non-Kuwaiti partners, if the person concerned has submitted an application in the appropriate form prepared by the ministry for this purpose, with the following documents, duly attached thereto:

1) A valid travelling document i.e. a valid passport.

2) The duplicate copy of the previous work permit.

3) A copy of applicant's labour identity card.

4) The employer's signature specimen or the specimen of signature of any person authorised by the employer to sign on his/her behalf in accordance with the provisions stipulated in this resolution.

Article 14

The ministry may issue labour permits to craftsmen and professionals of crafts and professions, practicable at their expense without any licence to be issued by any specific competent authority, if the concerned applicant has satisfied the following conditions:

1) To submit to the ministry a proof, evidencing that he/she has been practicing such a profession in Kuwait for at least ten years.

2) The applicant shall not be less than 30 Gregorian years old.

3) The applicant shall have a specific place of domicile, well known to the ministry.

An application for a labour permit in such a case may be submitted by means of appropriately completing the form prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for this purpose. The ministry may at any time cancel the said labour permit without indicating any reasons.

Article 15

Those who are subject to the provisions of this resolution shall be permitted

to work in Kuwait for a maximum period of three (3) years, duly renewable, provided that the person concerned has submitted his/her application for renewal, in the appropriate form prepared by the ministry for this purpose, three months prior to the expiry of the residence permit, with the following documents enclosed thereto:

1) A valid travelling document i.e. a valid passport.

2) The duplicate copy of the previous work permit.

3) A copy of applicant's labour identity card.

4) The employer's signature specimen or the specimen of signature of any person authorised by the employer to sign on his/her behalf in accordance with the provisions stipulated in this resolution.

Article 16

Any labour permit issued in respect of a labourer to serve a certain employer shall not be transferred to another employer before at least a lapse of three years, with the labourer in question having spent, in the service of the principal employer for whose service the said labour permit was originally issued, whether such a labourer was brought from abroad or locally employed.

The validity of relevant

duration shall commence to run with effect from the date of issuing the labour permit.

In the event of terminating the employment contract

concluded between the employer and labourer within this period for any reason whatsoever, the employer shall be held liable for the repatriation of such labourer, even if he/she is locally employed.

With regard to government

projects, labourers shall not

be transferred from one

employer to another during

the valid period of contract,

even if it exceeds the duration

provided for herein before,

save in the case of project

contract withdrawal from the

principal contractor, for

readjudication in the favour

of another contractor.

Labourers may then be

transferred to the latter,

without applying the duration

condition stipulated hereof.

Upon the expiry of the

government contract the

employer may transfer such

labourers to another employer

of a similar project, or

repatriate them pursuant to the provisions of this resolution. The minister may exempt any person, as he deems appropriate, from the condition of the duration stipulated in this article.

Article 17

The ministry may exempt those who have been residing continuously in Kuwait for a constant period of ten (10) years, from the provision of the duration stipulated in the preceding article, if the relevant labour contract has been terminated under the consent of the employer concerned, or in accordance with the provisions of either Article 57 or Article 59 of the Private Sector Labour Law.

Article 18

The transfer application shall be submitted in the appropriate form duly prepared by the ministry for this purpose with the following documents:

properly attached thereto:

1) A valid travelling document i.e. the applicant's passport.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Humaidhi optimistic over IFAD's third replenishment

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (OPECNA): Bader Al Humaidhi, director-general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, says he expects positive results from on-going consultations over the third replenishment of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

IFAD's main financial support comes from OPEC and OECD countries.

Al Humaidhi, who acted as spokesman for OPEC countries (category II) at IFAD's 12th governing council meeting in Rome last month, said OECD countries had asked the OPEC group to maintain its earlier contribution of \$184 million.

Contribution

"Such a contribution is difficult to make at present in view of the economic hardship facing OPEC countries," he said, adding that Kuwait had already fixed the amount of its share though the figure had not been made official.

He hoped that an agreement on the third replenishment would be reached when the IFAD governing council resumes its adjourned 12th session in March.

He pointed out that IFAD, unlike other international organisations, gave its three constituent groups, OECD, OPEC and non-OPEC developing countries, equal voting rights despite their varying financial contributions.

Canadian-led group signs Ankara metro contract

ANKARA, Feb 7, (Reuter): A Canadian-led group initialised a contract today to construct the start of an Ankara metro system aimed at giving the polluted Turkish capital a face-lift.

"I thank God for being able to inaugurate such a big project," Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said at the ceremony, attended by Canada's State Minister for Finance, John McDermid.

Ankara mayor Mehmet Altinsoy said the contract, won by Canada's Urban Transport Development Corporation (UTDC) with Turkey's Gama and Guris companies, totalled \$428 million.

The first 14-km (nine mile) stage of the planned 54-km (34-mile) metro is due to be completed by 1992.

Contract

Canadian sources said ground-breaking was possible next month if a company set up between UTDC and Gama-Guris signed a formal contract with Ankara Municipality under Turkey's build-operate-transfer system.

The whole system, scheduled for completion in 2015, aims at easing road congestion, reducing vehicle exhaust pollution and shifting the city centre away from barren Anatolian mountains to allow more space for mass housing projects and industry.

Imported car sales jump in Japan

TOKYO, Feb 7, (UPI): Imported car sales in Japan in January jumped 20.6 per cent over a year ago to hit a monthly record of 7,198 units, marking the 61st consecutive year-on-year rise, the Japan Automobile Importers' Association reported today.

The total included 2,793 passenger cars with over 2,000cc engine capacity, up 11.1 per cent, 4,340 subcompact cars, up 26.0 per cent, and 65 trucks, up 600 per cent, the association said.

West German cars continued to dominate the imported car market, accounting for 4,988 units, up 12.4 per cent over a year ago, the association said.

Volkswagen was the best-selling West German car, totalling 1,552 units, followed by BMW with 1,398 units, it said.

Sales of US-made cars increased more than two-fold to 880 units while those of British cars gained 23.2 per cent to 505 units, it said.

Declined

Sales of Italian and Swedish cars rose 2.4 per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively to 212 units and 330 units but those of French cars declined 5.6 per cent to 255 units, the association said.

Riding on brisk demand for luxury cars and the changing taste of Japanese customers, imported car sales hit a record of 17,135 units in 1988, up 47.1 per cent over a year ago.

Arab nations seek to boost economic growth

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuter): The failure of Arab League efforts to promote integration among its 22 members has produced an embryo Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), the latest sub-regional grouping seeking to boost economic growth.

The prime ministers of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan will meet in Amman on Feb 14 to announce the charter for the ACC, a senior official from one of the countries involved said today.

"In the absence of the Arab League, we are forming our own alliance because we cannot stand alone in the face of other economic groups. It is self-defence," he said.

Arab diplomats in Cairo said the four countries' heads of state planned to meet in Baghdad shortly after their prime ministers met in Amman. The summit, still to be confirmed, might take place on Feb 16, they said.

The Arab League has been crippled in recent years by wide ideological and political rifts over approaches to Middle

East peace and the Iran-Iraq war.

The six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) was the first of the new-style Arab economic units, binding Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman in an economic and defence grouping.

The GCC was formed in May 1981 in partial reaction to the Iran-Iraq war, which started six months earlier, and the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In North Africa, the leaders of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya are expected to announce the formation of an Arab Maghreb union in mid-February.

Language

"Economics is the language of the modern world. We cannot stand alone isolated while the world around us is forming economic alliances. It is only natural for the Arab states to seek smaller effective groups," a Gulf-based Arab diplomat said.

He said there had been an Arab League accord for a common market

since the late 1950s — "but nothing has been done."

Officials in the Maghreb and in the four ACC states have often said that the EEC bid to create a genuine unified market by 1992 was added impetus for their economic unity plans.

One Arab diplomat said a major problem with the Arab League was a rule calling for unanimous approval of all decisions.

New

"How can you get 22 people to agree on the same thing? Many want the constitution amended," he said.

The planned Arab Co-operation Council will represent nearly 80 million people and a Maghreb union 62 million people. The GCC covers 16 million people.

Lebanon's leftist As-Safir newspaper said on Monday Saudi Arabia opposed the ACC as a rival to its leadership in the Arab world and a challenge to the GCC.

But Riyadh quickly denied it was against the ACC or that ties with Egypt

were strained because it was promoting the new group.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted an official as saying King Fahd would continue to press for Egypt's readmission to the Arab League. Cairo was suspended after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

"The kingdom blesses any Arab gathering," the official said.

Arab officials have said the ACC is an economic alliance with no military or political aspirations. Membership will be open to any Arab state not belonging to the GCC or the planned Maghreb union.

"Our alliance is not directed against anyone and is not a military one. It is just an economic group that gives us mobility, more effective than the Arab League," an official said.

Egypt and Jordan strongly backed Iraq in its eight years of war with non-Arab Iran and supplied it with weapons, military experts and ammunition. North Yemen sent a symbolic brigade of a few thousand soldiers to fight alongside the Iraqis.

Bush vows to avoid protectionism

US President unveils thrift bailout plan

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (Reuter): President Bush yesterday unveiled a plan financed in part by \$50 billion in government bonds to shore up the ailing US savings industry without imposing direct fees on depositors.

"We intend to restore our deposit insurance system to complete health... we will see that the guarantee to depositors is forever honoured," he told a news conference.

Bush said his plan would address economic difficulties faced by the savings and loan industry but would take into account that "unconscious risk-taking, fraud and outright criminality" had been factors in the crisis.

The plan would:

- Create a financing corporation to issue \$50 billion in government bonds to shore up failing institutions.

● Put the estimated 350 insolvent savings institutions under joint control of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), which oversees commercial banks, and the Federal Savings and Loan Corp. (FSLIC).

● Overall the regulatory system will give the FDIC the sole authority to insure and set standards for savings banks.

● Add \$50 million to the budget of the justice department to "seek out and punish" those responsible for criminal mismanagement of savings and loan institutions.

● There is no guarantee of passing this on to the consumer, nor is there a guarantee that it won't be passed on," he added. "Nothing is without pain when you come to solve a problem of this magnitude."

The Bush plan for the crisis had been billed by the White House as a "permanent and comprehensive" solution. Many

experts estimated it could take up to \$100 billion to save the thrift industry.

The Bush administration has been struggling to find a way to rescue savings institutions without violating the President's oft-repeated election pledge not to raise taxes.

Bush's senior advisers had been considering slapping a fee on bank customers of 25 cents per \$100 of deposits. But when the plan was leaked to the media, members of Congress and the industry rebelled, claiming it amounted to a tax increase.

The President's new plan — which must be approved by the Democratic-controlled Congress — would raise the fees paid by savings and commercial banks to their insurance corporations, but by no more than seven cents per \$100 of the insurance protection.

Cost

Asked if he could guarantee that savings institutions and banks would not pass on the cost of the rescue plan to their customers, Bush replied: "We are not guaranteeing that I would hope that would not happen, but there's no guaranteeing what institutions will do."

"There is no guarantee of passing this on to the consumer, nor is there a guarantee that it won't be passed on," he added. "Nothing is without pain when you come to solve a problem of this magnitude."

The savings and loan crisis has emerged as Bush's first major domestic policy challenge.

Difficult economic condi-

tions, particularly in the US southwest, undermined the financial integrity of hundreds of savings institutions. But Bush said mismanagement and fraud also played a role.

The president said he was

determined to "seek out and punish" any savings and loan executives who had put their institutions in jeopardy through criminal behaviour.

The savings and loan crisis has emerged as Bush's first major domestic policy challenge.

As part of the effort to punish those abusing the system, Bush said he would order the Justice Department to double the personnel involved in investigations.

"Let those who would take advantage of the public trust and put at risk the savings of American families anticipate that we will seek them out, pursue them and demand the most

severe penalties," the President said.

Bush has had to grapple with the tough task of mapping a strategy that will prop up the industry without costing the federal government so much that it would jeopardise his domestic spending priorities, which he will outline in a speech to Congress on Thursday.

Initial reaction in the Congress to Bush's plan seemed to be positive.

"He (Bush) has hit a home run," said Congressman Jim Leach, a Republican on the House of Representatives Banking Committee.

He said he hoped Congress would expedite consideration of the plan, with final action before Easter.

Savings and loan institutions traditionally have concentrated on offering mortgages to home buyers and are monitored by their own federal regulator, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

Commercial banks, which are

regulated by other agencies, have mainly made commercial loans.

However, barriers dividing the types of services both offer have been dismantled in the 1980s, and commercial banks now offer mortgages through subsidiaries.

Banks pay a premium of eight cents on each \$100 of deposits to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which insures all deposits for savers up to \$100,000. Savings banks pay a premium of about 21 cents to the FSLIC.

Experts say the government

insurance fund that guarantees savings and loan deposits of up to \$100,000 is likely to exhaust its resources unless a comprehensive aid package is adopted.

Increase

Savings and loan executives have said an increase in insurance premiums could push up the interest rates they charge to borrowers, drive their business to banks and prompt massive withdrawals.

Similarly, commercial banks have said money markets funds and other financial institutions could reap a windfall if banks and savings institutions were forced to increase their interest rates.

The President, presiding at the swearing-in ceremony for US trade representative Carla Hills, vowed yesterday that his administration would resist protectionism.

Bush said he will work for open to more foreign markets to US goods but to bear in mind that "our major trading partners are not our enemies but our allies."

He said he agreed with Hills' contention, made during her US Senate confirmation hearings, that trade issues should be approached "with a crowbar and a handshake."

Bush jokingly waved a crowbar he presented to the trade official at the ceremony in the Old Executive Office Building.

Hills, in turn, presented Bush with a sweatshirt emblazoned with "think big," a reference to the marching orders Bush gave his cabinet at its first meeting.

Japanese jobless rate drops

TOKYO, Feb 7, (AP): Japan's monthly jobless rate fell in December, while the unemployment rate for the 1988 calendar year also inched down from the previous year, the prime minister's office reported yesterday.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in December, which fell to 2.3 per cent from 2.4 per cent in November, hit its lowest level since August 1982, according to the Statistics Bureau of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's office.

The number of seasonally adjusted actual unemployment was 1.44 million, down 40,000 from November, according to a bureau statement.

The figure included 390,000 involuntarily unemployed persons and 490,000 voluntarily unemployed, while the involuntary jobless rate sharply fell by 130,000 from the same period in 1987.

The comparable monthly jobless rate was 5.3 per cent in the United States, 7.6 per cent in Canada, 7.2 per cent in Britain

and 10.1 per cent in France.

But Japan's jobless rate would be higher if calculated by US or European methods since self-defence force personnel and people working more than one hour during the last week of the month — when data are tabulated — are counted as employed by Japan.

In the United States, military personnel are not considered part of the labour force, and those working less than 15 hours a week are considered unemployed.

The number of employed Japanese in December totalled 60 million, increasing by one million from a year earlier. The number of employed has increased by more than 800,000 in the last 14 months since November 1987. The bureau said this was indicative of steady economic growth in Japan.

Among the employed were 46 million non-agricultural employees, a category that increased by almost 1.2 million, or 2.6 per cent, from December 1987.

Private sector has a significant role

Rajiv tells planners to aim for higher growth

BOMBAY, Feb 7: With a little more initiative and innovative approach, India can achieve a rate of growth beyond 6.5 per cent. The Planning Commission has been asked to find the means for achieving a higher growth and in this the private sector must take initiative.

Development and technology are closely interlinked. It is the level of technology which determines the nature of development. Gandhi said that he was shocked and saddened by looking at the imperviousness of technology itself. It is not correct to say that modernisation creates unemployment. The railways have shown that modernisation can be achieved without retrenching people.

Gandhi observed that many a time senior managers kept smart-looking computers on their tables but hardly used them. These equipment are not status

symbols. Citing his personal experience, he said he had to "physically remove all the typewriters and put in their places word processors and computers. I also know my software better."

Often the resources are not utilised because there is no adequate data on their availability. With the efficient use of information technology India could fight the severe drought two years ago. Then there are misconceptions about technology itself. It is not correct to say that modernisation creates unemployment. The railways have shown that modernisation can be achieved without retrenching people.

Impact

Referring to the observation of Sam Pitroda, he said, why this emphasis on modern technology when there is no drinking water in thousands of villages and no blackboards in many of our schools.

World Business Summary

Iran seeks link with GCC to step up trade

Oil prices weaker

Dollar dives and Wall Street sharply higher

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuter): The dollar ended more than one pence down in Europe today with investors still worried about the possibility of further central bank dollar sales.

Relatively high US interest rates, however, provided the dollar with some support and prevented it from falling too far. It touched five-month highs just under 1.89 marks yesterday, triggering aggressive open market intervention by the US Federal Reserve and nine other central banks in Western Europe and Canada. But today the banks kept to the sidelines throughout Europe's day.

Higher

Wall Street rose sharply today with the Dow Jones industrial average 17.14 points higher at 2,338.21 points by New York's midday. London shares moved ahead to their highest since the crash of '87 while the Tokyo market ended at another record.

The dollar closed at 1.8675 marks and 129.30 yen in London today compared with 1.8780 and 129.65 yen yesterday.

In New York, US currency dealers said there was no fresh news to influence trade. They were waiting for President Bush's budget announcement on

Thursday. Speculators have been hungry for dollars since new year, betting that US interest rates will remain firm to cool an overheating US economy—which brings a lucrative return on their dollar assets.

Import

But a buoyant dollar, which has risen five per cent since the start of the year, pushes up import bills, and thus inflation, in the United States.

Finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial nations apparently renewed instructions to their central banks to keep the dollar in check when they met in Washington last week.

The price of gold closed in London at \$392.75 an ounce, compared with yesterday's close of 389.25.

Low

Some dealers said gold prices may have bottomed out after touching a quoted low of around \$386 yesterday, although others thought the market could dip again to around \$380 in the short-term.

Crude oil prices were weaker with North Sea Brent blend for March delivery quoted just under \$16 a barrel.

The benchmark US Treasury 30-year bond traded in London at 101-14/32 per cent yielding 8.86 per cent.

Recovered

In London, shares recovered much of yesterday's fall to trade near the day's highs in late business, reflecting gains on Wall Street today and a return of selective buying interest, dealers said.

Aero-engine makers Rolls-Royce topped the actives list with a turnover of 21 million shares, falling 1p to 161. Dealers said news of an order to power six Air Europe McDonnell Douglas MD-11s was outweighed by an earlier newspaper report the UK has refused Rolls-Royce aid to develop its RB211-524L engine.

Reuter shares were 10p higher at 630, responding to a wave of US buying following news New Zealand's NZPA investments had converted its holding of 2.78 million A shares into B shares.

Analysts said they had been speculating that a move of this sort might be on the cards and now anticipate other 'A' share holders will take similar steps.

They said the shares rose because the NZPA news removed uncertainty about the issue.

Reuter's 'A' shares carry more votes than the 'B' stock. Analysts said the prospect of the 'A' capital being converted into 'B' shares could bring a flood of new Reuter equity, possibly up to 100

million shares, onto the market. This prospect, they said, should have weighed on Reuter shares today.

Attractive

But they noted that with the market short of quality stock recently and with US investors known to find Reuter attractive it was not surprising there were buyers around. The removal of the dual share structure, if it comes about, could lead to increased Japanese interest in Reuter shares, they said.

Blue Arrow closed 4p up to 91 after five year results showing pre-tax profit of £75.08 million against 29.09 million. The final dividend was doubled to 1.2p. Dealers said although the result was at the bottom end of forecasts, the postponement of the figures had led the market into expecting such an outcome.

The Blue Arrow results were due to be published on Jan 31 and since then analysts had been revising their forecasts down on doubts about the first-time contribution of its US Manpower Group, which showed a 31 per cent increase in dollar terms.

Blue Arrow said dollar moves and losses at a former unit hit the results. Some 7.8 million Blue Arrow shares were traded.

OPEC strategic committee to review world oil market

VIENNA, Feb 7, (Agencies): The eight members of the OPEC strategic committee, responsible for monitoring prices, will meet here on March 29 to review the situation at the international oil market, since reaching the agreement on the production ceiling quotas and the floor price last Nov 28, an informed source said today.

The committee, entrusted by the latest ministerial conference to monitor prices at the global market, comprises oil and energy ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

The source predicted a joint meeting will take place between OPEC members and oil producers outside the organisation on the sidelines of the OPEC strategic committee meeting.

Meeting

Such a proposed meeting will take place if non-OPEC members reach an agreement with OPEC states on realising real co-operation between the two sides, aimed at stabilising prices on the market.

He affirmed that the organisation has always sacrificed to achieve price stability, which benefited producers as well as consumers.

The source also predicted that the eight ministers would look into the proposal of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on convening an OPEC summit.

However, he noted that this topic will be included in the agenda of the next ordinary ministerial conference, due to be held on June 5 in the Austrian capital.

happens to be of such strategic economic importance that it can not be completely dispensed with in the modern world."

The editorial points out that "we are witnessing the tragic results of this failed initiative instead of narrowing the gap between North and South is ever widening." It takes note of a UNICEF report which discloses that the net transfer of funds from the Third World to the financial institutions of the developed countries has reached \$20 billion annually.

The "OPEC bulletin" asserts that the answer lies not in providing what are no more than "handouts" whenever a natural disaster strikes the poor of the world, or to make out "charitable loans" to enable debtor countries to pay the interest on their massive foreign debt, but to take steps which would make the Third World self-sufficient.

Fair prices must be paid for the raw materials and commodities of the South. OPEC set an example nearly 30 years ago. It needs to be followed today. However, the answer lies not in confrontation, but co-operation between North and South.

The North needs the raw materials and markets of the South just as the South needs the industrial goods and technology of the North. That should be a solid basis for co-operation in equal partnership. That was the foundation upon which OPEC was built and that is what OPEC stands for today," concludes the "bulletin".

Europeans ready to protest US retaliatory sanctions

BRUSSELS, Feb 7, (AP): European officials bound for a meeting tomorrow of the EEC were set to formally protest a tariff imposed by the United States in retaliation for their ban on hormone-treated US meat.

Officials of the 12-nation European Economic Community where scheduled to convene at General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva. EEC members filed a complaint against the 100 per cent US tariff on European meat late last year in anticipation of US retaliation for its Jan 1 ban on growth hormone-treated beef.

The 96-nation GATT offers a forum for settling trade disputes among its members.

Refused

Frans Andriessen, the EEC's top trading official, was scheduled to travel to Washington for Feb 17-18 talks with the new government of US President George Bush, while EEC agriculture chief, Ray Machis, was planning a trip later in the month, spokesmen said today.

The new US Secretary of State, James A. Baker III, was slated to stop in Brussels on an upcoming swing through western Europe.

The United States has refused to honour the new EEC ban on beef from growth hormone-injected cattle, which Europeans say is unhealthy.

The EEC hormone ban, already delayed one year, is expected to block the importa-

tion of about \$100 million worth of US beef and beef byproducts. Meat used to make pet food is exempted.

Former President Ronald Reagan's administration retaliated against the ban with a 100 per cent import tariff on European boneless beef, pork hams and shoulders and a variety of other European products produced in the South for industries in the North.

However, this did not come about, despite the general acceptance of global interdependence and the need to bridge the gap between developing and developed countries. "Even OPEC was only able to survive the manipulations of the oil market because, ultimately, oil

Measures

Foreign ministers representing the EEC nations warned last month they would impose counter-retaliatory measures on US walnuts and dried fruit if the two sides failed to quickly end the dispute. The ministers approved a plan to do so, but delayed implementing it to give more time to negotiations. They will discuss the issue on Feb 20.

Total trade between the United States and Europe is estimated at \$166 billion. EEC members include France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

and at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry of 1989 may obtain the bidding documents from the office of the Director of Purchases & Stores Dept. at the General Admin of Shuaiba Area Authority during office hours as from the date against a non-refundable fee of KD 10/- An initial guarantee of 5% of the offer shall be attached to the offer.

Offers with final price shall be submitted to the above address in sealed envelopes not later than, Wednesday, 15.2.1989 and any offer received after the said date shall not be considered. The authority shall have the right to accept or reject any offer without stating the permanent reasons.

(To be continued)

Provided by M. A. Murali, Al Nama Int'l. Translation Services (ex-Maradim), Tel. 2429522, 2465413/4, Abdulla Taiki Bldg., 3rd Floor, next to Air India Bldg.

Mohan Menon congratulated

C.S.S. Khanpuri, chairman of NRI Investors Forum in Kuwait sent a congratulatory cable to K. V. Mohan Menon, ex-chairman of the Forum, on his appointment to the NRI Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The cable added that Menon's appointment is seen as a proud recognition of the importance of the NRI Forum.

The fiscal condition of the United States is very difficult and the need of the IMF is strong to increase capital strength," Nakagawa said.

"Nobody can stop this trend of Japan's increasing influence," Nakagawa said. "They need capital."

Ruding said the United States has opposed calls for increasing member nations contributions to the IMF due to US budget restraints.

Increase

Japan's recent increase in the quantity of its financial aid to developing countries is welcome, Ruding said. But the quality of the aid is low, he added.

Only 40 per cent of Japan's official development assistance is given in the form of grants, the rest is given as a loan.

The United States and European countries generally give about 90 per cent of their aid as grants.

"I see good prospects for Japan's desire to increase its power in the IMF," Ruding said.

Ruding also said a meeting of the IMF interim committee in

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Tender No. A 990/C - K.N.P.C.

Requirements: Supply, installation & operation of automatic fire protection system.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette Al Kuwait Al Youm Issue No. 1805 dated 8.1.1989, the CTC hereby confirms the inclusion of M/s Brown Boveri Electrical Co. in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender.

Tender No. A 990/C - K.N.P.C.

Requirements: Supply, installation & operation of automatic fire protection system.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette Al Kuwait Al Youm Issue No. 1803 dated 25.12.88, the CTC hereby agrees to include M/s Khalifa Dusaj Al Daboot & Bros Co. in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender.

Tender No. MEW/22/4/83/88/9 - MEW/22/4/87/88/88

Requirements: Replacement of fresh & brackish water nets from asbestos to plastic.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette Al Kuwait Al Youm Issue No. 1803 dated 25.12.88, the CTC hereby agrees to include M/s Khalifa Dusaj Al Daboot & Bros Co. in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender.

Tender No. MEW/22/4/82/88/88

Requirements: Dredging of water well at north west of Umm Qair field (Field F).

The CTC draws the attention of all concerned that the local agent of M/s De La Rue Printmact Co. and not as erroneously mentioned in Issue No. 1806 dated 15.1.1989.

Tender No. MEW/22/4/82/88/88

Requirements: Dredging of water well at north west of Umm Qair field (Field F).

The CTC draws the attention of all concerned that the local agent of M/s De La Rue Printmact Co. and not as erroneously mentioned in Issue No. 1806 dated 15.1.1989.

Tender No. MEW/22/4/82/88/88

Requirements: Dredging of water well at north west of Umm Qair field (Field F).

The CTC draws the attention of all concerned that the local agent of M/s De La Rue Printmact Co. and not as erroneously mentioned in Issue No. 1806 dated 15.1.1989.

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New concept in low-energy home design

Keeping out the cold down under

By Alan Franks

RATHER than studying the ways of the ant in his quest for community wisdom, the aptly-named Peter Carpenter has aped the mole and built a house deep into a bank, with a garden for a roof. But that is only the topsoil of a singular story. To burrow further is to reveal a tale of child-like single-mindedness in a supposedly adult world.

He has just completed, largely with his own bare hands, an eight-bedroom annexe with not a single breath of mechanically generated warmth. Yet it remains at room temperature the whole year round. There is no backup system in case of a power failure, for there is no power to fail.

The Bern House (berm is Old English for bank) at the Caer Llan Field Studies Centre in Lydari, South Wales, is, according to its creator, the first genuinely zero-heated building in the UK.

Although Carpenter, who is also the warden, may be regarded as a woefully uncommercial

creature in many ways, he admits to hoping that his creation will be a prototype for a society as profligate as ours with its finite sources of fuel, and may even earn him fame and fortune.

The Bern House stands on the hills above Monmouth like a low castellated rampart of local stone, next to the big old house.

Reminder

On a bitter winter's day, you enter into the temperate air of the newer block through a corridor. You assume there is a fierce little storage heater somewhere, parting with its hoarded calories, and only when you find no such unit does the sensation become momentarily odd.

You have to remind yourself that you are, technically at least, four feet under; for, unlike a cof-

fin, there is an airy vista of the hills around Monmouth through the south facing windows.

These windows are a crucial feature of the design, since Carpenter's concept of a heat-efficient building was based partly on the blissful truth that south-facing windows gain more heat from the sun than they lose in the course of a season.

Avoided

Add to that the two deceptively hard tasks of achieving near-perfect insulation, and of installing a heat exchange system which helps to keep the place cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and you have the broad strokes of Carpenter's blueprint.

He first thought about beginning work on the house as long

ago as 1980, but a shortage of cash delayed the start until six years later. In the end it cost him just under £140,000, of which nearly half was provided by a retired lieutenant-commander who had sufficient faith in the project to back it in return for the occupancy of one of the bed-sitting rooms in the annexe.

Several years ago, Carpenter narrowly avoided having to leave Caer Llan altogether when the financial pressure became too great. He was only saved by another act of faith, this time by his parents and a small unexpected bequest.

Yet far from stemming his ambition, the barriers of money seem to exert a pull on him, to the extent that he is now contemplating building a show house — enshrinining the same principles — buried into the south of the hill above the field centre, and then an enclosed swimming pool next to the new annexe.

For all these operations of apparently Zorbaesque zeal, he is now encouraged by the fact that the Department of Energy is taking him sufficiently seriously to have chosen the Bern House for a profile of the newest developments in low-energy home design, which it is circulating to member nations of the EEC.

It is the almost negligible energy costs of Carpenter's house which have impressed the department. Almost all the electricity consumed is accounted for by lights, televisions and kettles, so that the overall cost of energy is eight times lower than the British target for efficient housing.

Carpenter's rationale remains that of an unabashed ideologist: "I suppose it stems from the fact that I'm trained as a biologist. To me, an energy-efficient society is one which realizes that if a turnip costs 25 calories to grow, in terms of human input, but gives 40 calories back, then turnips are a good thing.

"Yet here we are; we expend thousands of calories distributing food, much of which is nutritionally pretty useless. It makes no sense. In the same way, we want to use fossil fuels —

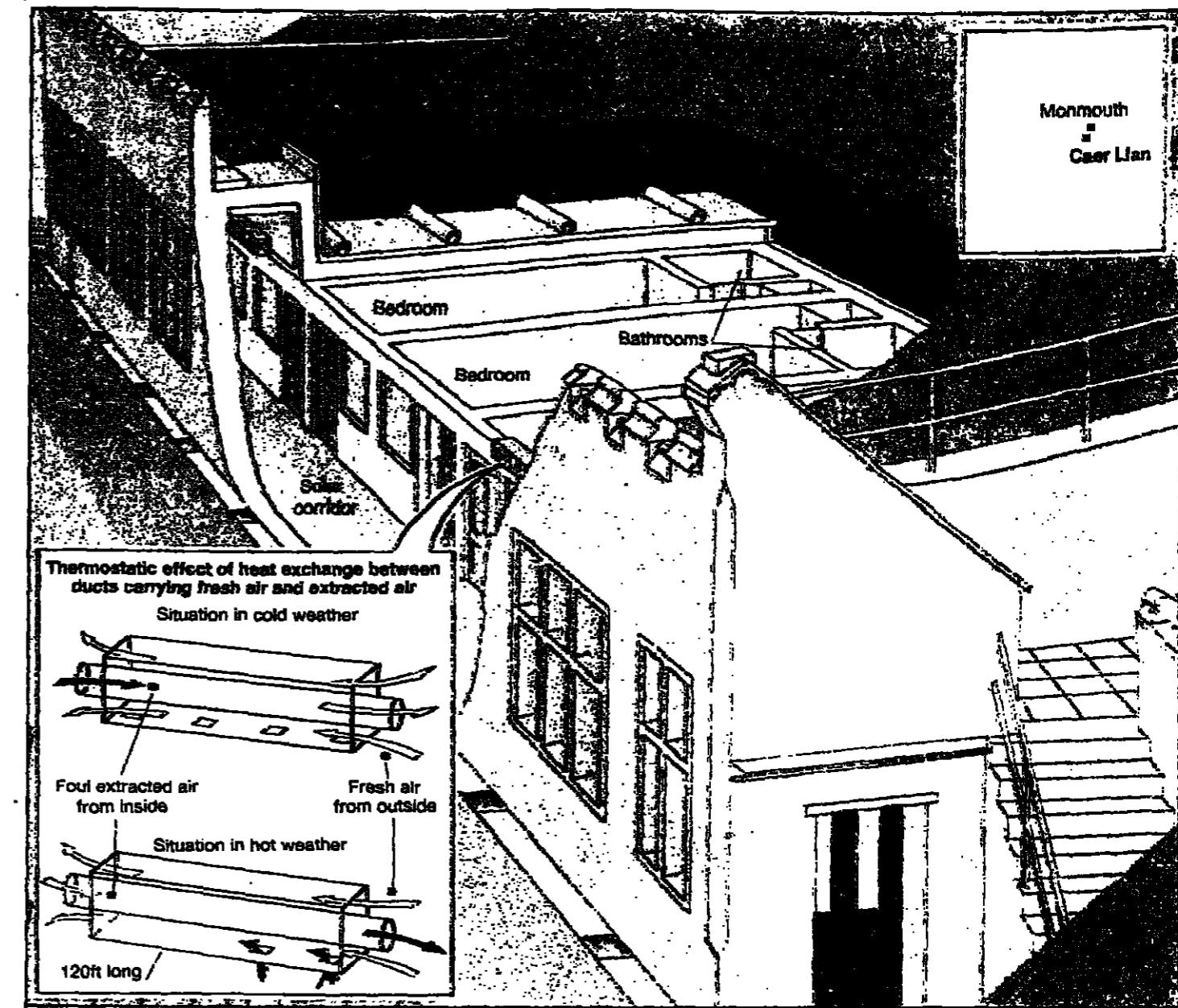


Diagram of the house that Peter Carpenter built.

deposits which have built up over the millennia but which have been plundered at an astonishing rate over the past 200 years — in order to light boilers which will give us back some heat."

Theme

He warms to his theme as he speaks. "A plastic spoon is probably the perfect emblem of his lunacy. It costs goodness knows how much to produce, and yet we chuck it away after using it once.

"I want to build houses that will outlive the changing trends in fuel prices. And that is why the crossing of the zero barrier has

been so important. What is the use of a house that halves the amount of oil needed to heat it, if the price of oil doubles the next day?"

Carpenter draws some encouragement from the fact that designs along similar lines to his own have acquired some credence in the United States. In Britain too there are houses which use a combination of solar heating and the burrow principle, but none, he claims, with such an efficient elimination of heat loss.

One neighbour in Monmouth, who has watched Carpenter put

his ideas into operation over the years, says: "He does appear to be eccentric in a thoroughly English sort of way. But when you look at it closely, he's thoroughly centric, in the sense that he's pragmatic. You or I might think 'Wouldn't it be nice to do such and such,' and simply never get round to doing it. Peter said to himself, 'I'm going to build this damned house if it kills me.' And he just did it. It's tempting to think he's daft, and then you discover that having taught himself plumbing, he now gets called out to help some of the professional plumbers in the

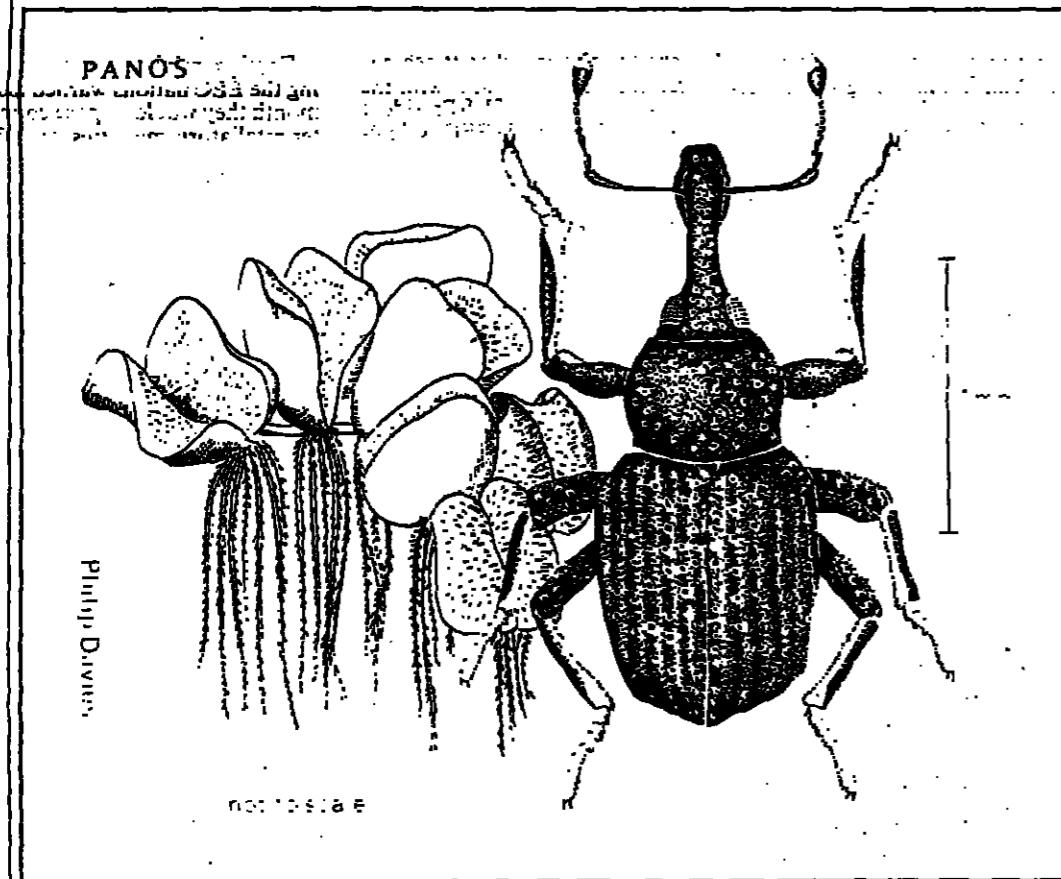
town when they have run into some difficulty."

In its more conventional context the study centre is a headquarters for all manner of courses, from young surveyors learning to use theodolites, to young Americans learning to use English literature.

One regular visitor is the Shakespearean scholar, Professor Fred Stocking, from Williamsburg, Massachusetts; he is also a leading authority on the Albert Memorial in Kensington, a building which (even Carpenter agrees) seems to be completely unheatable.



Peter Carpenter overlooking the lawned rooftop of his zero-energy house in South Wales.



A weevil Salvinia molesta and the beetle that controls it.

Bug keeps choking weed in check

By Mallika Wanigasundara

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka: An Australian scientist arrived in Sri Lanka in 1984 with a curious consignment in two small boxes: 4,000 live weevils.

He was not turned away, because his weevils are a natural enemy of "Salvinia molesta", a devastating species of water weed which has been choking waterways in Sri Lanka and many other countries.

Dr Peter Room, from the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), had already successfully used this tiny weevil — Cyrtobagous Salviniae, its scientific name — in the control of salvinia in Australia and Papua New Guinea. He has since been helping Sri Lanka to use the ravenous little bug.

Salvinia grows profusely in reservoirs, rivers, tanks and paddy fields, causing grave problems for the island.

In water, the weed blocks off light and oxygen, killing fish and water-life.

Boats cannot sail through the matted weed. It interferes with inland fishing. It is a threat to the newly-built irrigation reservoirs of the giant Mahaweli River diversion scheme, where excessive salvinia could

block flood gates and sluices. Hand and mechanical weeding are too costly; in any case the salvinia reappears fast.

Herbicide spraying is equally expensive at around Rs6000 (US\$200) per acre. Herbicides would also kill fish and have other adverse environmental effects.

But a team of scientists from the University of Kelaniya, near Colombo, has bred Room's weevils in their thousands and let them loose in salvinia-infested areas — with considerable success.

Tiny

Dr Ivor Fernando, a senior lecturer and entomologist at the university, says that the team first introduced 200 of the weevils into the Bathuloya River, in the north-west, in April 1987. Within 10 months, the salvinia had vanished completely, where earlier it had covered large expanses of water.

But in Sri Lanka another problem is now cropping up: where the salvinia has vanished, other water weeds such as water hyacinth, hydrilla and water lilies are taking over.

"It would be a waste if our work is undone in this way," says Fernando. What the country now needs, he notes, is a national aquatic weed control centre to keep the problem under check. Panos Features

surrounding areas to boost their growth.

The insect is a tiny creature only three millimetres long, resembling a rice weevil. It is a highly specialised insect with a voracious appetite, but is entirely fastidious about its diet — feeding only on Salvinia molesta. It would rather die than eat any other plant — even a closely related species is untouched.

Biological controls like the Cyrtobagous beetle are cheap and self-perpetuating, says Fernando.

Tests have been done in Australia and at the Agricultural Research Institute in Gannoruwa, Sri Lanka, to ensure that the weevil does not harm other plants or fish.

In Australia the weevil was screened against 46 species of plants — rice, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, lilies, and grasses — for adverse effects.

But in Sri Lanka another problem is now cropping up: where the salvinia has vanished, other water weeds such as water hyacinth, hydrilla and water lilies are taking over.

"It would be a waste if our work is undone in this way," says Fernando. What the country now needs, he notes, is a national aquatic weed control centre to keep the problem under check. Panos Features

By Alex Molloy

THERE is a brave new world just around the corner where life will be free of disease and even humble housework could be a thing of the past.

Christine MacNulty, director of a consultancy firm Applied Futures and a world expert on things to come, says this is a dramatic picture of life in the 21st century.

Men will have a kind of anti-freeze instead of blood so they can build holiday hotels under the sea and unlock the riches hidden under Arctic and Antarctic ice.

She says: "Animals who live in and around the Arctic have a kind of anti-freeze in their blood naturally, so it is perfectly feasible that one day man could have the same kind of thing. But this would happen through diet. It would be perfect for people who work in freezing conditions for long periods.

"Another boom would be for

divers. There are an enormous amount of sub-sea resources in the Arctic. But how do people go about making use of these resources?

"A great number are under the sea-bed where it is too deep for divers to go. At present only robots can go down that far. And as well as being expensive, there is a limit to what they can do."

Possible

"But it is possible to build quarters down there where divers and engineers and geologists can go and live for a short time.

"Eventually there will be sea hotels and even shopping centres. In Japan they are building a hotel under the sea. And there have been passenger sub-marines in the Caribbean and Japan for sometime.

"The construction techniques are already there, such as for the oil rigs in the North Sea and the Channel Tunnel, for example. Within the next 20 years these will be developed to a great

extent. "The Arctic also has huge mineral resources. I expect the North Pole and Antarctica will be used for industrial purposes."

Christine also believes it will not only be scientists who travel to the frozen wastes of the Arctic. She says: "Already people go to the Arctic for holidays."

"There will be a great many more in the future. Surveys of future society show that large numbers of people will be looking for excitement and wanting to break new boundaries."

"Medical boundaries are another thing that could be broken in the next century. Christine explains: "Doctors will have had longer to study certain diseases and medical technology will have improved. Diseases that we cannot treat today will be treated quite easily in the future."

"Electricity bills could also become a thing of the past if sunlight takes over from light bulbs. Christine explains: "There

is a kind of fibre glass known as optical fibres that can carry light, rather than in the way that copper wire carries electrical currents."

"The light transmitted is almost perfect sunlight." Christine believes that by the next century life will not be that different — just a lot easier!

"People will also want more pleasant surroundings and will not want to be confined to box-like houses with box-like rooms. They will want more greenery and light, and will live where they choose to break new boundaries."

"There will be no more hoovering and dusting — carpets will clean themselves and special filters will clean the air of dust. Easy-care fabrics will come out of the wash crease-free so ironing will be a thing of the past. And television will be more life-like with 3-D laser holograms that will float images in mid-air without a screen."

"Telephones will have video screens so you will be able to see who you are talking to, and

everything you do not want to do yourself can be done by a robot.

Small groups of houses will be built under glass domes that have computer-controlled weather. And the size of rooms can be extended by moving the walls backwards and forwards at the touch of a button.

Christine also sees a change in the altitude of people. She says: "Many women will be taking time off work to have children, and then going back to work. But the role of wife and mother will also be considered very important, perhaps more important than today."

"Governments will have much more concern for their people on spiritual, psychological and physical levels. And crime rates will go down as people's values change. And advanced security will mean less crime."

"Of course, it won't all happen instantly."

"But the general outlook for the future seems rosy, with lots more optimism..."

There's nobody here except us chickens ...

By Deborah Zabarenko

Is the earth the best place to have children, or is space a better frontier? Thirty-two chicken embryos will accompany the space shuttle Discovery this month as part of an experiment to determine whether chickens — and possibly humans — would develop better in weightless conditions.

"What's going to happen up in space when that baby chick turns?" Is heart going to drop, or not? It doesn't have gravity to pull it down."

Reasoned

Vellinger reasoned that since crystals have been shown to grow better in space, perhaps living things would, too.

Chicken eggs were chosen because they are easily transportable embryos to take aboard the shuttle, but Vellinger's curiosity goes far beyond farmyard animals.

"Is earth the best place to have children?" he asks. "Or is space a better frontier?"

Vellinger, a senior student at Purdue University in Indiana, developed the experiment as a high school pupil, and an earlier version of "Chix in Space" was on the doomed shuttle Challenger in January 1986.

"I had to build and design this incubator to mimic the back of a barnyard," Vellinger said.

For the experiment to work properly astronauts on Discovery's five-day flight will have to open up a hatch on the incubator seven times to let oxygen inside. The flight is due to begin on February 23.

As a control to the 32 eggs aloft, there will also be another 32 in an identical incubator on the ground.

Half the embryos in each age group in each incubator will be removed from their shells and examined after the shuttle lands. The others will be allowed to hatch naturally and tracked throughout their lives.

Vellinger said he would look for differences in the degree of embryo development, the nature of bone calcification and the development of the inner ear — all questions which could be applied to human embryos as well.

He acknowledges that such an experiment with human embryos is not even on the horizon, but he looks forward to a study that could be performed on a longer shuttle flight or aboard an orbiting space station, where hens would be brought aloft.

"Instead of having it up in space for just five days, I think it'd be ideal to maybe send up a couple of hens, have the conception process take place in space and have the chickens hatch," he said.

Vellinger's is one of two student experiments slated for the Discovery flight — the other is on bone-healing in rats — along with other experiments on protein crystal growth, plant growth, and an optical study for the Air Force.

The shuttle's main payload is a 100 million dollar tracking and data relay satellite.

Despite the sophisticated nature of Vellinger's study, he said, his greatest challenge was how to keep the eggs from breaking. His incubator easily passed the vibration tests for the space shuttle, Vellinger said. The real refinements were made so it could be safely transported on ordinary airlines.

Mavericks outclass Clippers

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): The Los Angeles Clippers moved to the brink of tying the NBA's single-season losing streak last night, dropping their 19th straight game as Mark Aguirre and Sam Perkins keyed the Dallas Mavericks to a 129-111 victory.

Aguirre scored 16 of his 24 points in third quarter as the Mavericks outscored the Clippers 41-18, going from a 49-54 half-time deficit to a 95-77 lead.

Perkins scored 26 points and Rolando Blackman, who missed the last four games with a dislocated finger, had 19 for the Mavericks, who snapped a 10-game road losing streak.

In the only other National Basketball Association game last night, Phoenix routed Utah 104-87.

The single-season losing streak of 20 games was set by the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers. The Clippers can match that mark tomorrow night when they play host to the Houston Rockets.

The Clippers' franchise record losing streak of 19 games was set late in the 1981-82 season when the club was in San Diego.

Charles Smith led the Clippers with 23 points.

Suns 104, Jazz 87

Tom Chambers scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth period as Phoenix averted a second-half collapse and posted its 28th victory, matching last year's total.

Phoenix led 66-45 with 7:02 left in the third quarter before a 20-6 Utah burst trimmed it to 72-65. The Suns opened the fourth quarter with an 8-0 run, with Chambers hitting four free throws. Chambers added a three-point play, a layup and a jumper before Gilliam's stuff with 3:42 left made it 97-75.

Armon Gilliam had 22 points and 17 rebounds, Kevin Johnson 19 points and 12 assists, and Mark West, 12 rebounds for Phoenix. Karl Malone led the Jazz with 19 points.

Australians take titles in Finnish Open

HELSINKI, Feb. 7, (Reuter): Rodney Martin and Liz Irving gave Australia a double in the Finnish Open squash tournament yesterday by winning the men's and women's titles.

Martin, the top seed, beat second-seeded Umar Hayat Khan of Pakistan and Irving upset the form book by beating top-seeded Lisa Opie of England.

Martin, ranked sixth in the world, beat Umar 15-7 15-9 14-15 15-10 in a fast and furious match dominated by muscle-stretching low shots.

"The rallies were so short and sharp because he hits the ball so hard and low. At the same time I don't think he was expecting some of those balls to come back," said Martin after the match which earned him \$5,400.

Buffit

Irving, ranked fourth in the world, took the women's title in a nail-biting finish.

She built a 12-8 lead in the deciding game, but a loss of concentration and a bad miss allowed Opie, the world number two, to go 13-12 ahead before Irving recovered to take the \$1,500 first prize.

Irving said matches between the herself and Opie were always close because "we are both erratic, inspirational players."

YMCA brush aside Al Mulla

HAYNES VOTED INTERNATIONAL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

Greenidge guides West Indies to draw

ADELAIDE, Australia, Feb 7, (Reuter): Opener Gordon Greenidge, in probably his last game in Australia, scored his first Test century in five tours to guide West Indies to a draw in the fifth and final Test today.

At close of play, 30 minutes earlier than scheduled after the captains agreed no result was possible, West Indies were 233 for four in their second innings after being set 371 to win. Greenidge hit 104 and Viv Richards 68 not out.

Australia had earlier declared at their overnight score of 224 for four wickets. West Indies won the series 3-1.

Anger

For the second successive day a West Indian player, perhaps reflecting the effects of four months on tour, expressed anger at what he believed was an umpiring error.

With the score on 21 for no wicket Desmond Haynes drove at a ball from left-arm Mike Whitney and was given out caught behind by Ric Evans, umpiring his first Test.

Haynes, visibly enraged by the decision, stood his ground for several seconds before walking off slowly. "I can't believe this at all," he shouted on arriving back in the dressing room. Haynes



Greenidge flicks a shot off his boots as Australian wicketkeeper fields behind the stumps during action on the last day. (Reuter wirephoto)

scored 15.

Yesterday, West Indian pace bowler Malcolm Marshall seemed to shout and swear at the other umpire, Peter McConnell, after the official gave Australia's David Boon not out for a catch.

Australia, seeking successive Test wins in the same series for the first time since 1982-3, had a good chance of winning for a short period after lunch when they dismissed Richie Richard-

son and Carl Hooper in the space of two runs.

But Greenidge and Richards, coming together at 89 for three, steamed the innings with 123 for the fourth wicket to snuff out Australia's hopes.

Greenidge, 37, is unlikely to tour Australia in 1992. The right-hander's previous highest Test score was 95 in Adelaide on the 1984-5 tour, although he hit 140 for a World XI in a "Super-test"

against Australia in 1977-8.

After helping to score 21 off the first four overs Greenidge curbed his natural aggression, hitting eight fours before reaching three figures with a boundary through midwicket. Clearly moved, Greenidge was embraced by Richards as the spectators afforded him a standing ovation.

The opener added just one more run before David Boon gave spinner Tim May his second

wicket of the innings, catching Greenidge at short-leg off bat and pad.

Richards, like Greenidge, was happy to wait for the bad ball to hit. The West Indies captain struck four fours in his 50 which took 109 balls.

West Indies seemed interested in trying to score the 371 runs

needed for victory until the dismissal of Richardson and Hooper.

Two balls after lunch Richardson prodded at an outswinger from Mike Whitney to give Allan Border a hard catch diving into his left at second slip. Richardson scored 22. Whitney finished with nine wickets in the match.

The out-of-form Carl Hooper lasted 15 minutes before he was out for a duck, playing on to a delivery from spinner Tim May.

West Indian paceman Curly Ambrose was voted Man of the Series after taking 26 wickets in the five Tests while Haynes was voted International Cricketer of the Year after two Test centuries this summer.

Haynes became West Indies' top run-scorer in Tests in Australia, scoring 536 runs to overtake Rohan Kanhai who hit 503 runs on the 1960/61 tour.

Meanwhile, the West Indies Cricket Control Board announced

yesterday that Richards will lead his country in the forthcoming home Test and one-day series against India.

India begin their tour of the Caribbean on Feb 26.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 515

WEST INDIES first innings 369

AUSTRALIA second innings

(overnight 224 for four)

G. Marsh c Dujon b Ambrose 79

M. Taylor run out 36

D. Boon not out 55

D. Jones lbw b Richards 6

S. Waugh run out 8

A. Border not out 6

Extras (1-1 lb-13 nb-10) 34

Total (for four wickets) 224-declared

Fall of wickets: 1-98 2-176 3-187

4-213

Bowling: Marshall 12-2-30-0 (2w),

Ambrose 15-2-44-1 (4w), Walsh 13-

26-0, Patterson 8-1-29-0 (4w),

Richards 24-3-64-1, Hooper 3-1-7-0.

WEST INDIES second innings

G. Greenidge c Boon b May 104

D. Haynes c Healy b Whitney 15

R. Richardson c Border b Whitney 22

C. Hooper b May 0

V. Richards not out 68

A. Logie not out 2

Extras (1-3 lb-7 w-1 nb-11) 22

Total (for four wickets) 233

Fall of wickets: 1-21 2-87 3-89 4-

5-110

Did not bat: J. Dujon, C. Walsh, P. Patterson, T. Marshall, V. Richards 20-4-60-2 (4w), Waugh 9-3-23-0, Hooper 15-3-52-0, May 23-2-60-2 (7w), Border 5-0-3-0.

Awami score easy win over Super Royal



Mustafa: hit 62

AWAMI Cricket Club crushed Super Royal Cricket Club by six wickets in a Morning Star Trophy match earlier this week at the Morning Star ground.

Super Royal batted first after winning the toss. They opened their innings through Raiz and Ali who put on 112 runs for the first wicket.

Raiz hammered 65 runs while Ali batted well for his 57 as Super Royal went on to score 169 for the loss of five wickets in their 22 allotted overs.

Opened

For Awai, Intiazi was the main wicket-taker with two scalps.

Awami opened their innings through Mustafa and Latif. Both the openers scored at will, hitting all the Super Royal bowlers to all parts of the ground. They put on 119 runs for the first wicket.

Both the openers hit 62 runs each and made things easy for the other batsmen who completed Awami's victory in 18.4 overs. Awami only lost four wickets.

Scudamore sets jump racing record

WARRICK, England, Feb 7, (Reuter): Champion jockey Peter Scudamore rode into the record books again today with his 150th success of the British jump racing season.

Victory on the novice hurdler Ant Matter in the first race took him past the previous record of 149 set by Irishman Jonjo O'Neill in 1977-78.

With more than 16 weeks left Scudamore, injured by bad weather, now looks sure to top the 200 mark.

Even Lester Piggott, on the 11 occasions he was champion jockey on the flat, never achieved the double century.

Average

Most remarkable of all, Scudamore's 150 winners have come from only 426 rides, a strike rate of 35 percent — about three times better than the average jockey.

He now needs only 10 more winners for the 1,000th success of his 10-year career. Only fellow Englishmen Stan Mellor and John Francome have achieved that feat.

In December Scudamore became the first jockey to ride 100 winners before Christmas in a British jump racing season which starts in August and lasts for 10 months.

Anti Matter, the Evans favourite, is trained by Martin Pipe who has supplied most of Scudamore's winner this season.

Coach admits part in attempt to beat drug test

MONTREAL, Feb 7, (Reuter): A former assistant coach with Canada's weightlifting team yesterday admitted to giving his urine to an athlete in a field attempt to beat a drug test before the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Raphael Zuffelato told an inquiry looking into the use of drugs by Canadian amateur athletes that he gave his urine to lifter David Bolduc, who was threatening suicide after learning he would have to undergo a test he had used a banned substance.

"Once I saw this boy in such a depressed condition I said I had to do something for him," said Zuffelato, adding Bolduc was lying on his bed, "crying like a baby."

Testified

Bolduc and two other Canadian weightlifters, Parjit Gill and Jacques Demers, have testified they allowed urine to be injected into their bladder before the testing last September. The scan was unsuccessful, however, and the three were thrown off the team before the Olympics.

Zuffelato denied telling Demers that national coach Andrej Kulesza also furnished urine for the scan aimed at hiding the use of anabolic steroids by the weightlifters.

"I never said that," Zuffelato, 58, told Justice Charles Dubin, who is heading the inquiry.

Bruno has no chance against Tyson: champion's trainer



Tyson (left) and Bruno.

cautiously: "Well, he was being just a little bit lazy. Everyone has to have desire."

"Maybe me being here talking to him reminded some of the excitement," said Bright, who lived with Tyson in the home of his late trainer, Cus D'Amato, in upstate New York and considers Tyson to be like a brother.

Bright replaced interim trainer Aaron Snowell, hired after Tyson fired long-time cornerman Kevin Rooney. Rooney angered the champion by making public comments about Tyson's personal life.

Bright, nursing a painful bruise on his arm after an over-exuberant Tyson accidentally punched him during a drill on Sunday, said one of the weapons

not affected when his personal problems were gaining steam last June, just before he destroyed Michael Spinks, they would not interfere in his bout with Bruno.

Bright, who was a struggling actor and part-time trainer of amateur boxers before joining Tyson, repeated a refrain of the champion's camp: Tyson has not come close to reaching his potential.

"He's only about 40 percent of the fighter he could be," Bright said.

"When you're an amateur you look at the heavyweight champion and think wow, that looks like perfection. But then you get to be the heavyweight champion of the world and that's just another plateau."

Bright said Tyson was now back on track, sparring seven to eight rounds, six days a week, and looked great in a workout on Sunday.

If so, that would be a contrast to Tyson's uninspired sparring session last week when reporters were allowed into the gym to watch the workout.

Felder described the agreement, which Tyson signed last week and Given signed Sunday night, this way: "Basically, she will keep what was hers, including all of her jewellery, and he will keep what is his."

Felder declined to discuss the settlement in detail. Asked who would get the couple's New Jersey mansion, he said, "she never wanted it."

"But he's doing things now

that you just wouldn't believe."

Meanwhile, actress Robin Givens has signed a divorce agreement that will end her stormy marriage to Tyson, her attorney said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

McEnroe wins

TORONTO, Feb 7, (AP): John McEnroe defeated Jimmy Connors 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 last night in an exhibition tennis match at Maple Leaf Gardens. In another match, Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union trounced American Tracy Austin, a former star who left the game in 1981 with a back ailment and now is attempting a comeback, by 6-3, 6-4.

High standards

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuter): A British government department has stopped Yugoslav defender Milos Drizic joining First Division Southampton after England's soccer authorities said he did not meet their high standards.

Indianapolis 500

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb 7, (AP): The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has mailed invitations to 36 racing teams expected to enter cars in the May 28 Indianapolis 500. More than 90 entries, including cars for defending champion Rick Mears and eight other former winners, are expected by the April 3 deadline.

Greece triumph

PATRAS, Greece, Feb 7, (AP): Greece beat England 1-0 today in an under-21 exhibition soccer match held in this southern port city. Striker Issak Moustakidis, a rising star from First Division Olympiakos Piraeus, scored off a penalty in the 31st minute.

Swiss goalkeeper

GENEVA, Feb 7, (Reuter): Swiss national goalkeeper Joel Corminboeuf said today he needed surgery for torn knee ligaments and would be out of action for several months.

Somali players

NAIROBI, Feb 7, (Reuter): Seven Somali soccer players, in Nairobi for a regional tournament, have applied for political asylum in Kenya, a spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said today.

World Cup

FEISTRITZ, Austria, Feb 7, (AP): Norway's Eirik Kvalfoss won the 20 kilometre event at the World Cup biathlon today in 58 minutes 13 seconds.

Grand Prix

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, Feb 7, (AP): Second seed Jakob Hlasek of West Germany yesterday advanced to the next round of the Nabisco Grand Prix tennis tournament by defeating Swede Tobias Svartesson 7-6, 6-2.

Swim meet

BERLIN, Feb 7, (AP): Glen Housman of Australia defeated East German swimmer Carsten Kuehnlmogen in the 1,500m freestyle yesterday at the NOK international swim meet in East Berlin.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club played on Sunday:
1st Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
2nd Madge McKenzie & Nadia Arabi
3rd Rima Ayyad & Ghofran Mikail

Swedish star's adviser denies suicide attempt

BINGHAM WITHOUT FOUR FIRST CHOICE PLAYERS

N.Ireland bid to stop Spain



Butragueno: Spain's lone striker

BELFAST, Feb 7, (Reuter): Spain's impeccable qualifying group record faces a thorough examination tomorrow as Northern Ireland bid to rescue their own fast-fading World Cup

triumph in Malta last month. But Bingham said: "They are the favourites but I don't think they'll travel well. I detected that in Malta — they didn't show the same attacking policy they use at home."

"They can be absolutely devastating. But I think they might lose a bit of heart if we contain them early on."

Spain have scored eight goals

in their three matches but coach Luis Suarez looks likely to send out a side whose priority is to defend with five men strung across the back and Real Madrid's Emilio Butragueno the lone striker.

His squad contains three changes to the party which travelled to Valletta. Fernando Hierro and Jose Diurrun are two new-comers to the international scene who are almost certainly along for the experience but Jose Bakero and Miguel Chendo could play more significant roles in a four-man midfield designed to stifle the Irish.

"It would be very difficult to qualify if we don't win this one but teams mightier than Spain have been put to the sword in Belfast," Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham said.

Spanish confidence is riding high at present following their 4-0 win over Northern Ireland in Seville in December and in the 2-0

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